

SCIRA European National Secretaries Meeting

August 24, 2018
Pori, Finland

The meeting was called to order at 1830 in the Yyteri Hotel in Pori, Finland by European General Secretary Martin Bermudez.

Those in attendance were: European General Secretary (and Spanish NS) Martin Bermudez, Yannick Laumans (BEL), Kai Saarhelo (observer), Reino Suonsilta (FIN), Sue Roberts (Treasurer); Pietro Fantoni (Commodore), Antonio Bari (Rules Chairman), Steffen Skjornberg (NOR), Marinella Gorgatto (ITA), Zbi Rakocy (POL & Secretary), Marko Marinovich and Nikola Deskovic (CRO), Jerelyn Biehl (SCIRA)

Approval of minutes – The minutes from the 2016 Europeans NS meeting were approved with Sue Roberts making the motion and Yannick Laumans as seconder.

Country Reports

Croatia – Zagreb held one regatta and more boats than in the Nationals. There is a North / South split in the fleets. The decision on where to have the nationals changes each year between North and South. A problem exists attracting juniors as they lose them when they go to Uni (no sailing at Universities in Croatia) so they are trying to find a way to get them back into Snipes once they have finished at Uni. Antonio Bari came to teach them how to measure which was very helpful and informative.

Poland – One new boat. 18 paid SCIRA boats. They make sure all Nationals participants are members. Other regattas difficult to persuade people to pay. 5 juniors at the Junior nationals but only 1 registered. European Cup was successful. Poor turnout in Pori as there was only sponsorship for one boat to attend.

Italy – a report from the NS read out by Marinella.

Norway (reported by Steffen Skjonberg) – the new NS is located in Bergen which is a growing fleet and now has about 30 boats. Oslo 45-50 but only 10 going out regularly. Nationals were up a little on numbers with approx. 30 boats. Very few boats now in Stavanger. Nationals next year possibly 1st or 2nd week in July in Bergen.

Finland – 63 members, 12 juniors, 1 new boat, 30 registered. 6 active fleets. The nationals has a minimum limit of 20 boats and the National secretary is very proactive in getting the number at 20 or above. They have Try-Snipe events. Have a ranking score in Finland with travelers getting extra points. Use Whats App which works well if you need a crew etc.

Belgium – 10-15 Snipes in evening summer series. Training has 8 boats with more training planned for the autumn. Antwerp snipe cup in March had over 30 boats. Decided to have nationals on Galganweel in Antwerp as a break from the Netherlands as numbers were down in Netherlands and social side more limited. Next year hoping to find somewhere with good courses as well as good social. Have Champion of Champions in November where National Champions from different classes borrow a boat and the owner of the boat crews for them. Had 20 last year and hoping to improve on numbers this year. Have 45 helms and 70 members in total. Website gives good communication and also use What's App group. Feel a need to find some new good sailors to replace some of those that have left the class.

Spain – 220 boats, 400 members. National Federation helps organise clinics etc. Portugal is included in the circuit of 12 races, 3 of which are in Portugal. Entry has one price with everything included. There are a lack of juniors in Spain sailing Snipes. The Board has changed in Spain recently and is working better. There are new clubs where Snipes can be sailed eg. Marbella.

UK – UK also has a north split divide with most boats at Budworth (approx. 30 plus) but only a few will travel to events, including the Nationals. The Nationals are still held in the south one year and North the next to encourage participation from the Northerners. Next year the Nationals will be in North Wales and

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only 1.5 hours from Budworth but 6 hours for the Southerners. Really hoping to encourage sailors to participate next year by promoting the Nationals when we go there for the open meeting in October. If you sail in the Nationals you have to be a fully paid member of SCIRA but very difficult to get people to pay at other smaller events. Nationals were down on numbers for UK boats but had 4 overseas entries (France, Belgium and Norway!) which helped to boost the numbers. Bough Beech is a growing club in the south with 8 boats and some interest from people sailing different classes. Only way we can get decent second hand boats available for new sailors to buy, is to buy them from abroad. Have some keen juniors in the UK who will be very pleased if the Junior age limit is raised to 25 so they can still compete in junior events. All our juniors are members of SCIRA as we subsidise the membership to encourage being a member from an early age.

Future Bids:

1. Future Bids open for Europe
 - a. 2019 Summer Circuit - CRO, AUT, ITA/GER. Daniela Semec to confirm
 - b. 2019 South Europeans – POR, CRO possibly interested to host.
 - c. 2019 Nordics - proposal to use a Nationals as a Nordic trophy. Bergen may be good but will need help organizing.
 - d. 2019 European Cup – *Caldonazzo, Italy*
 - e. 2019 Ladies European Championship - Belgium is interested to host
 - f. 2019 East European Championship - may need to retire this event.
 - g. 2019 European Masters – *RNC Valencia, ESP approved. (May 1-5)*
 - h. 2020 European & Jr European Championship (S. Europe) – *CRO bid approved*
 - i. Long Range: 2021: World & Jr Championship (N. Europe) - NOR & POL interested

Elections

- j. General Secretary - Martin Bermudez to serve another 2 terms
- k. Vice Secretary - Reino Suonsilta confirmed
- l. Secretaries for North, South, East - Svend Andersen (DEN), Marko Marinovich (CRO) & Rafal Zakrezewski. (POL)

Open Discussion:

1. Open Snipe Day - try to hold annually
2. Sponsorship - Zbi to continue to pursue
3. Ranking - Pietro & Daniela visiting SUI to discuss further
4. Discussion of a package deal of charter boat & accommodation to encourage more people to travel/attend events
5. Discussion to organize a circuit of regattas between smaller countries to encourage participation, especially in northern Europe.
6. Discussion of re-establishing the Yves LeBour trophy.

Meeting adjourned at 2030