

European National Secretaries Meeting

August 24, 2004

Socite Nautic Larmor Plage

European General Secretary Gilles Boisaubert called the meeting to order at 3:15pm. Those in attendance were: Gilles Boisaubert, General Secretary; Stefano Longhi, Vice Secretary; Ola Nygard, Northern European Secretary; National Secretaries – Ben Van Cauwenbergh for Belgium, Alessandro Rodati, Italy; Kai Saarhelo, Finland; Rene LeBour, France; Birger Jansen, Norway; Pepe Perez, Spain, Luis Pessanha, Portugal; Liz Crouch, United Kingdom. Board Member at Large Giovanni Galeotti and Executive Director Jerelyn Biehl were also in attendance as was Jan Peeters of Belgium.

General Secretary Report – Gilles Boisaubert

Thank you for coming and for your action for the Snipe Class the whole year round. I think the situation is improving as activity in number of countries (Germany, East countries) but we will have a better overview of the situation in Europe after your regional and national reports. For my two years as European Secretary, I've tried to visit some championships and international events even though not so frequently as I expected to. The actions enterprised are the Euro calendar and the National Secretaries report. I think these actions have to be continued:

- The Euro calendar because it's an important part of promotion and of participation. We have a lot of regattas and very simply if they are too close to one another the participation is decreasing. All the International European regattas shall be included in this calendar.
- The National Secretaries report is the indispensable means to improve the quality of our report and to have a better and forecast situation of the Class in your country.

I wish these two actions should be continued and become usual. John Broughton as Honorary Vice Commodore continues to have relationships to promote the Class with Baltic countries and with the help of Poland. I hope in a few years the Baltic countries will become members of the Snipe Class.

As other business, I was the SCIRA Representative in the ISAF meeting in Barcelona and wrote a report to the Board.

Vice Secretary – Stefano Longhi

This year I was appointed to a committee by the Commodore to study the Worlds quota system. Cliff Browning of the US and Mariana Foglia of Uruguay are also on the committee. I presented my paper to Cliff at the World Masters in Bracciano. The goal is to improve the number of participants. Past studies show that approximately 20 positions have remained opened. I have proposed that each National Secretary must commit their number of participants to the SCIRA office and 2 months prior any unused positions will be distributed among countries that would prefer to send more.

Northern Europe – Ola Nygard

Most of the major regattas in Northern Europe have fixed dates. The Scandinavians were held in Denmark this year and it is an open regatta. They will be held in Vestfjorden, Norway in August, 2005.
National Secretary Reports

Southern Europe – Claudio Ciuffo

No report

Eastern Europe – Alexei Fomin

No report

Belgium – Ben Van Cauwenbergh

We are a small country and our numbers are currently down, mostly due to new families and some injuries. Our quantity may be down but our quality remains high. In 2004, the Belgian Championship was

to be held on the sea, but the RC cancelled the regatta due to too high of winds, and we persuaded them to move it to an inland sea. We had 15 at our nationals. We will have a new National Secretary next year.

Italy – Alessandro Rodati

We are in a good situation and expect to have 150 registered boats by the end of the year. The 2004 Jr. Europeans were held in Trieste last month in strong wind conditions. Italy also held the World Masters in Lake Bracciano recently. We hope to solve the problems that occurred at this championship for the future. Our Nationals will be held in Elba Sept. 8-12. We are having difficulty encouraging junior teams to participate.

Junior Issues – Giovanni Galeotti

Giovanni sits on the Junior Committee for SCIRA and commented that SCIRA needs to promote the Snipe as another junior boat. The Snipe is a great boat to promote the passing of knowledge from one generation to another. There are few classes where adults and juniors can compete on the same course. We need to promote with Federations and ISAF.

Finland – Kai Saarhelo

Finland has 1 junior team and the rest senior with 24 registered boats. There are 100 boats in the country, but not all are registered. 20 boats competed in our Nationals, which is the minimum for the Federation to recognize. Our calendar has 1 regatta per month in a different location. Each Spring we participate in boat fairs and expositions in Helsinki and Turku. We publish a Snipe magazine 2 times per year and also produce Snipe pamphlets to hand out at the expositions. In 2006 we will hold the European Championships in Pori (July 24-30) with the Nordics held just prior (July 21-23). This will coincide with the anniversary of our Club. In 2004 we have 3 new boats and 2 new used boats in the country.

France – Rene LeBour

Our Nationals saw 39 boats (19 French) and we hope to have more members registered before the end of this year. The activity is slow with an impacted calendar. In the winter we participate in the Boat Show and hold a membership meeting. We planned 1 race outside of France in our nationals ranking, which was San Remo this year. Relationships with our Federation are improving with the Snipe, 470, 505 and Fireball supported for senior sailors. Junior boats are the 420 and Equipe. Our Nationals will be in Le Havre next May.

Norway – Birger Jansen

Birger expressed to all NS to support the Europeans in Finland in 2 years. Norway's membership goal is 180 boats and they currently have 150 paid. Norway held the Women's Worlds this year that produced good results and sponsorship. Norwegians are traveling more, to 6-7 regattas in different places. The Nationals were held on the west coast with 53 entries (2nd year) and the Nordics were in Oslo in August. We have a Snipe school, which produces more interest and sailors with 70 boats in the Oslo fleet. We race regularly on Wednesdays in the summer with 25-35 boats on the line.

Spain – Pepe Perez

Pepe is the new National Secretary for Spain succeeding Fernando Tajuelo. Many Snipe sailors through measuring know Pepe. Things are not going as well as we would like. We have 225 boats paid, but more sail. We average 60-90 boats at our important championships. We need to collect dues earlier and everyone must sail with documents. If we follow the rules, the prestige of the Snipe will increase. In the female and juniors we are weak and we would like to discuss how other countries are encouraging these areas. We would like to propose that women and junior sailors be allowed to participate without paying registration fees. We also must fight against other options of sport – sailing is a great sport! In 2006 & 2006 Spain is bidding for the World Masters in Valencia and the Sr. Worlds in Los Nietos. There will be no entry fee and hotels are free. We would like an answer soon because we need to request government assistance. We would also like to propose that when a country works to organize a championship and can't afford to organize it, it would be good to give the championship to the club. However, SCIRA should check that the sponsorship is acquired that perhaps the entry fee be reduced.

Great Britain – Liz Crouch

We have had low turnouts at regattas. 20 boats have registered and we are struggling. We keep 5 regattas on the calendar, and 13 attended our Nationals. We have 2 new boats in the country. The Snipe was exhibited in the London Boat Show and John Broughton has organized a race at the boat show for next year. This is my last year as NS and Alan Williams will be my successor.

Portugal – Luis Pessanha

No report.

Championship Bid Forms

NS expressed an interest to ask more information about the entry fee and what will be included. It is difficult to ascertain the right balance of economic problems and economic aspect. Every country has a right to hold a championship. The budget varies from country to country, but we cannot select bids based on economic conditions only.

NS Report Form and Nomination Suggestions: Gilles asked each NS to return the form he sent earlier and also to send back names for the nominating committee.

Officer Elections: Gilles Boisaubert and Stefano Longhi were elected to serve another 2-year term.

Calendar:

2005: Ladies European – Italy interested
2005: European Cup – Germany (N. Italy) May 20-22
2006: Europeans – Pori, Finland
2006: Junior Europeans – Balears, Spain interested
2006: Women's Worlds – Uruguay bid
2006: World Masters: Valencia, Spain bid
2007: Worlds: Caiscais, Portugal and Los Nietos, Spain bid
2007: Junior Worlds: Southern Europe – no bid
2007: European Cup – Belgium interested
2007: Ladies European – no bid
2008: World Masters: Sweden & Norway interested
2008: Junior Europeans – no bid
2008: Europeans – Canary Islands interested
The European NS voted to support Valencia, Spain's bid for the World Masters

Olympics – Jerelyn Biehl

Jerelyn passed around the handout that was presented to ISAF. All the material on the Olympic bid has been posted on the website. A decision will be made at the November ISAF Conference.

Measurement: Pepe Perez complained that the pens were not lasting on the mylar stickers. It was pointed out that a special "paint pen" must be used (can be purchased at an art supply store). He also suggested that a clear piece of tape be put over the sticker to make it last longer. Official SCIRA stamps were passed out along with measurement certificates. More information on the program will be sent shortly.

European Community Directive: In some countries some boats must have an EC label. Builders must be these on the boat. Gilles asked each NS to contact and discuss with their builders the ramifications if this directive passes. If passed, boats without these stickers will not be allowed to go on the water without a security boat. Right now it only applies to boats builder after 1998.

Junior Europeans – Stefano Longhi proposed a change to the Deed of Gift to increase the entries and entry fee and/or cap the entries to increase Snipe interest. Stefano will pass around a possible change to all NS for input.

European Board: Gilles asked for a clarification of the European Board. As voted, the Board will include: European General Secretary, Vice Secretary, East, North and South Secretaries.

European Deed of Gift: discussion was held regarding the Deed of Gift specifications regarding accommodation. Rene LeBour asked all NS to forward any questions to him. Gilles will work on a modified Deed of Gift for presentation to the European NS and

Board.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.