

SCIRA National Secretaries Meeting  
July 26, 2005  
Gamagori, Japan

The meeting was called to order by Commodore Henrique Motta at 8:40am. In attendance were: Diego Stefani, Uruguay, Joaquim Moreira, Portugal, Pietro Fantoni, Italy; Birger Jansen, Norway; Casper Young, Canada; Robert Dunkley, Bahamas; Paco Perez, Spain; Carlos Wybert, Argentina; Don Hackbarth, USA; Haruo Sawamura, Japan. Past Commodore Jiro Yamamoto and Brainard Cooper, Vice Rules Chairman Steve Stewart, Member at Large Cliff Browning and Executive Director Jerelyn Biehl were also in attendance.

Japanese National Secretary welcomed everyone to Gamagori (get text)

Minutes from 2003 NS meeting were approved as printed in the Snipe Bulletin:

**National Secretary Reports:**

**Argentina:** New boats are difficult as they are expensive. They are looking for cheaper boats as the economy is not good. Used Snipes are needed and hopefully Argentina will have a new builder this year. South Americans will be in Cordoba, in the central of Argentina.

**Bahamas:** The nationals had 8 boats participate, with 2 boat increase. A new junior sailing program has been established with 45 Optimists with 150 juniors. We hope these juniors will move into the Snipe. We hope to see 20-25 Snipes back sailing in the Bahamas. A bid is in for the 2006 World Masters.

**Brazil:** Junior Worlds will be held in August. Junior increased from 2 to 15 boats. 2 fleets were revived – Santos, where the Mayor is a member, bringing low-income sailors to sailing with 12 boats; Guanabara has 5 boats trying to increase. Nationals were in the NE of Brazil with 40 boats. There are currently 2 boat builders in Brazil which helps the fleet.

**Canada:** North Americans will be held in Oakville next weekend. A new resurgence is happening in Guelph Lake with 6-7 boats.

**Italy:** The Ladies Europeans were recently held in Italy. This past weekend the Junior Nationals were held with 15 boats, the first time in many years. Bracciano Lake will hold the National Championship.

**Japan:** Eight years ago, the National Athletic Meeting of Japan did not choose the Snipe and our numbers have been declining. However, it has brought about change for the better and we now have 12 fleets and 843 senior members. Most boats are owned by clubs of colleges, universities, local government and some individuals. **The 58<sup>th</sup> Nationals will be held in September in Fukuoka. 64 boats will be competing in this 2005 Nationals and will be a qualifier for the WH&O.** The Masters and women's will be held together in August in Hokkaido with 20-30 Masters teams and 5-10 women's teams. The junior activity is low and a new promotion was made to invite younger and older sailors to the Snipe through Snipe Festivals, open to everyone.

**Norway:** Membership is still growing. 55 boats in the Nationals and women's nationals are being held in 1 week. There were 32 boats last year. A new fleet is beginning in the south beginning in a small keelboat and moving to Snipe with 15 boats. There are 70 boats in the Oslo fleet with 30-35 on Thursday evening races.

**Portugal:** The class is growing steadily in the past 5-6 years. There are many Olympians training in the Snipe. The Snipe is the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest class after the Optimist. We hope to hold the next Worlds.

**Spain:** Our natural activity shows no growth, but many fleets are cooperating. Granada has an artificial lake where our Spanish Cup was held in conjunction with a ski slalom race. Cadiz is growing as well. More women are sailing but junior numbers are low. This year we combined junior and women's at the Cup in 14 women and 11 juniors. We are trying to promote a mixed crew event to promote more sailing. Bids have been made for the Jr. Europeans in 2006 or 2007 in Palma.

**Uruguay:** The fleet is not growing much, but activity is high. Many new members are joining. We are organizing to bring the Opti kids into the Snipe by organizing races with Opti kids as crews. We have no Olympic classes, so the Snipe is the boat to sail. Our Nationals were in February and our numbers were low due to exam dates, with only 8 boats. We have a national ranking with participation year round. We have entered a bid for the Women's Worlds. The Foglia sisters were just named Sportsmen of the Year for Uruguay. Sponsorship is a key focus for our class as one for all.

**United States:** (see report) Our builder has been building many boats. Our Nationals are running in the high 50s. Masters go up and down depending on the venue; junior nationals are in the teens and the women's vacillate with the venue. We have submitted a bid for the 2006 WH&O in Miami. We would like to propose to increase the numbers of attendees for the WH&O.

No reports were received from the European, WH or E. European GS.

**Bids:** An overview of open bids (see website) were given.

#### **New Business:**

Statistic trends of boat registration were handed out. A general trend of lower membership shows. Market trends for the sport of sailing are on the increase, so we hope to see sailing in general increase. Comments on emerging countries were made and a welcome to Puerto Rico and Croatia were welcomed. Commodore Motta pointed out that in the Snipe we have 4 divisions: masters, open, women and juniors. Many countries add mixed crews, B division or the above, and also recognize the Most Improved Sailor. This helps recognize sailors and encourage participation. Portugal encourages the women to compete on an equal basis with the men.

Discussion of participation was held among the participating countries. Brazil's builder works with new owners to move used boats. USA is looking for unused boats to donate or sell at a low cost to juniors or interested members. USA made DVDs of bringing new sailors into Snipes and also created a Fleet Management manual.

Birger Jansen brought up the upper mast limit new rule. It is difficult for crews to drop the main during big breeze and could be a safety issue. Steve Stewart discussed measurement issues.

Birger Jansen discussed worlds schedule and possibility of additional races if races are postponed as may happen at this Championship. Discussion was held to have 5 races

during the Worlds without a spare day. But adding the spare day adds flexibility in case of unusual circumstances (like a Typhoon!)

Birger Jansen brought up discussion of adding the “I” flag from the first start. Most NS in attendance did not support this idea.

**Measurement:** Steve Stewart thanked the host Japanese for the outstanding measurement. SCIRA is close to implementing a measurement system to go worldwide. The program begins at the fleet level and continues up through the top championship. A booklet will be created and will help educate the proper measurement process. In addition the measurement stamps, stickers, MDS and Measurement Certificates will be included in the program. SCIRA needs to get the new measurement frames to various countries.

Japan would like to propose a raising of the age limit for the Junior Worlds to 22 to include University students. It was discussed that the current age limit follows ISAF.

The thickness of the hull is 3mm **as per the rule. Japan showed attendees a piece of hull which is taken from an actual boat, its thickness is less than 3mm. Japan explained that there are many boats breaking the rule and whose thickness is less and this is not a problem of one specific builder but common problem of many builders.** Japan would like to increase the limit of the hull (3mm) or **to change the rule to** allow a thinner hull or to enforce the **relevant rule of hull**. Brainard Cooper explained that there are only 2 ways to measure hull thickness: MOI or by a core sample. Japan asked the Rules Committee to send strong warnings **to Builders** of adherence to the proper hull thickness rules.

Meeting adjourned: 10:50am.