

European National Secretaries Meeting  
Pori, Finland  
August 4, 2006

Meeting was called at 8:47am by Kai Saarhelo, National Secretary of Finland. Stefano Longhi, Vice European Secretary then proceeded to conduct the National Secretaries meeting. Stefano thanked Finland and Kai for hosting the Championship. Those in attendance were: Bernhard Rost & Robert Winther – Sweden; Piotr Manczak and Prezemslaw Blaszkza – Poland; Rear Commodore Ben VanCauwenberg, Andre Callot and Thierry den Hartigh – Belgium; Andrey Astashev – Russia; Jose Perez Morales and Elena Perez – Spain; Jan Persson & Christian S. Andersen – Denmark; N. European Secretary Ola Nygard & Past Commodore Birger Jansen – Norway; Alessandro Rodati – Italy and Executive Director Jerelyn Biehl.

Ola Nygard and Birger Jansen motioned and seconded to accept the minutes of the prior meeting. Motion approved.

**Country Reports:**

**Belgium:** Andre Callot & Thierry DenHartig reported that the class is going well. 2005 had 3 new members and 2006 there are currently 5 new members. Belgium is looking for good used boats. 20 boats attended the Belgian Championship in 2005. The Cadet and 420 sailors are moving into the Snipe and also crews from other classes crew in the Snipe. Belgian Federation called to congratulate the Snipe after 20 years. No other class in Belgium has such results. Belgium sailors travel to as many countries as possible. Currently there are 30 boats registered. The Belgian website, headed by Dirk DeBock, Jr., keeps the communication going. All members in Belgium are active with the Class. Belgium is proud of Rear Commodore Ben Van Cauwenberg.

**Denmark** – Jan Persson reports that the Danish Federation favors Olympic classes. The Wiibroe Cup is popular and continues to move. Persson production has moved to Italy.

**Finland:** First Snipes in Finland were built in 1947 with more than 800 boats registered since 1947. We are the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest double-handed class in Finland behind the 49er. Approximately 45 sailors have participated in regattas in 2006. More than 300 names in the list, but 50 are members. The Finnish nationals and Grand Prix series (5-7 regattas) are being organized as well as the Nordic and Europeans. Many sailors travel outside Finland to other European countries and the US for the Midwinters. The Finnish Snipe Class has produced color leaflets to promote an active and sporty class. Many articles have been sent to the Federation and magazines. Poland is also looking for good second hand boats. Snipe Import Finland was created to make it easier to purchase boats. More recognition of the Class through networking. Promotion - Helsinki & Turku boat shows with information and the Finnish Snipe Bulletin (2 times per year). The Snipe has survived against the other classes. Several new boats have come into Finland. Members are getting older and juniors are missing and low fleet activity except Helsinki.

**France:** Report from Rene LeBour. Boat show in Paris, the Snipe season has been slow. More 20 boats including Belgian and English crews. A stable number of members.

**Germany:** Report from Günther Hautmann read: The Snipe-Class Germany is increasing slowly. 2006 there are 12 members and 8 boats. One additional boat is existing without membership at the moment. So it's a small fleet, organizing big events: meantime the German Open is one of the big snipe events in Europe! 55 snipes on the starting-line in 2006!! 64 boats were attending the last year event, combined with the European Cup! Organizing such events wasn't possible without the perfect and immense support of the Trento Sailing Association! Once more, thank you to our Italian friends! This support pays off! When we started with the first German Open, there were only a few active snipe sailors in this Club; 2006 there are two fleets with more than 20 boats and a lot of sailors are participating in regattas. Best regards and kind wishes for a wonderful event

**Italy:** Alessandro Rodati reported big activity in various centers of Italy. A new fleet in Southern Italy has increased from 3 to 9 boats. Expect 60 boats at the Nationals in Trieste August 22-28. A junior

championship is organized the same time as the seniors. A measurement course was organized with the help of Antonio Bari & Giorgio Brezich to ask people to learn to be a measurer. Older measurers asked to assist. 15 new measurers are added. The website in Italy is good ([www.snipe.it](http://www.snipe.it)) organized by Pietro Fantoni. The junior activity is under control but we continue to organize. We expect to increase the number of boats, as the level is good. Italy will present a bid to organize the Jr. Worlds 2007.

**Norway:** Birger Jansen reports that membership is stable. New boats every year. Norwegian Championship had 60 boats. Many boats are strong. 16 boats at Women's Nationals. The Snipe is the biggest class in Norway. Tonsberg will hold the SCIRA Jubilee in 2007. Norway will send 12 boats to the World Masters in the Bahamas. Promotion in Norway: weekly news and watches for sale.

**Poland:** Piotr Manczak read a report from Zbigniew Rakocy. Poland has a new class management: Zbigniew Rakocy – President (National Secretary); Bogdan Ratajczak, Vice Pres.; Dariusz Sibilski, Sec., Jacek Bloch; Board member. We would like to thank Jacek Bloch for his many year of service and getting the Snipe Class active again. We have had many sailors participating in European events and we organize the National Polish Cup. To organize these events we have secured a sponsor, Primavera mineral water. To celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversar, we organized regattas for children and teenagers (from Cadet class). We only have 17 boats and are in desperate need of good used boats. Contact [zrakocy@wp.pl](mailto:zrakocy@wp.pl) or [d.sibilski@neostrada.pl](mailto:d.sibilski@neostrada.pl). There are 38 registered members. We would like to propose Herbert Hoerterich for a position within SCIRA.

**Portugal:** The level of our activity is very good. We still have some regattas with our Neighbours (Spanish Fleets). The main fleets are at Cascais and Oporto. Like last year, we have very old Olympics crews which sail in Snipe. Martinho Fortunato is as example; He was world Championship in 420. This year, Tiago Roquette won this 8 National Championship. We still have difficulties to catch juniors! It will be a problem for us in the future. We don't know how we can do! For the worlds in Oporto, the Club (my Club), is doing a very good work, in order to prepare a very good Championship. We have already sponsors and all the support that we need to ensure the event.

**Russia:** Andrey Astashev reports 50 Snipes in Russia at the Moscow Sailing School. Russia invites people to come to Russia and sail. Russia is working hard to promote Snipes in different regions of Russia including: giving 3 boats to the sailing school in St. Petersburg; Arc Marine builds more boats in St. Petersburg in wood in the city of Bratsk in Siberia; Russia is working in other regions. Black Sea sailing and training and some sailors come to Moscow to sail. MSS held the Finn Gold Cup and 49er Worlds as well as Snipe Jr. Worlds, Open Moscow, Open Russian, Open Masters. There were more than 80 sailors from 10 regions in Russia sailing from May to this date. In August we will organize the traditional Int. Sailing regatta in Snipes, Optimist, Cadet and Finns. Russia has submitted a bid to host the 2007 Ladies European Championship.

**Spain:** Pepe and Elena Perez reports that fleets are the same. Tenerife will hold the Spanish Cup and the 2008 Europeans in Las Palmas, Gran Canaria. Not many juniors, but the ones who sail are very good. The women crews are active and we continue to promote and grow. Our relations with the Spanish Federation is good, granting money for championship travel.

**Sweden:** Bernhard Rost reports that activity is good. Members are about 70, 52 registered boats (up from 2005). 24 boats at Swedish Championship including 5 new boats, some from the Star class. The Federation supports the Snipe. We try to have good contacts with the big clubs in Sweden to promote the Class. Robert Winther manages the website with over 5,000 visitors including a new/used page. The Nordic Cup is active with 4 regattas to promote international sailing.

**United Kingdom:** Submitted via e-mail from NS Alan Williams: There are realistically only two significant fleets left in the United Kingdom these being at Budworth Sailing Club in the North of England and Blue Circle Sailing Club in the South of England. The UK membership has been relatively stable for a number of years with UK boats taking part in regattas in France, Belgium and Denmark already this year and it is anticipated that there will be further participation in France, Belgium and Holland before the end of the season. There is a shortage of good quality second hand boats which is possibly hindering the

development of the Class in the United Kingdom. It is anticipated that there will be approximately 17 boats at the UK National Championships and Open Events have attracted on average 12 to 13 boats. There have been a number of date clashes through the season where UK Open Meetings have clashed with meetings abroad at which there would usually have been representation and attempts will be made to avoid this situation arising next year. The National Championships in the UK for 2007 has been provisionally set for Stone Sailing Club in Essex on the 31<sup>st</sup> August and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of September and it would be appreciated if these dates could be noted in the European Calendar for next season at the earliest opportunity.

**Measurement:** Rule 18 discussion: the authority for issues is the measurement committee not the jury. Pepe works hard to enforce the rules and it must be honoured to ensure that all competitors are on the same level. If the rule is not clear, we ask SCIRA to change or modify to clarify. Stefano raised the issue of other Class rules, for example the RC and Jury. The European NS will ask for a clarification of this rule to the Rules Committee. The boom from Portugal was allowed to sail because it was the first time the measurers have seen it. The measurers allowed it to be used because they were unsure of the interpretation of the rule. Persson had asked permission to build a boom 10-5 and 1 year ago and was told no. This boom was presented here without asking permission and allowed. Ola Nygard suggested that Giorgio Brezich's comment be posted for all competitors. Jerelyn Biehl thanked each country for complying with the dues and MDS requirements. Birger Jansen asked how many boats were being checked on the water and weighed after. Pepe & Elena responded that 3 boats per race were checked on the water. Birger suggested that at European and Worlds that some boats be weighed during the Championship. Suggestion to weigh boats randomly afterwards, but competitors may be allowed to weigh on one SCIRA scale.

**European Masters Deed of Gift:** Bernhard Rost made a motion and Ola Nygard seconded to accept the proposed Deed of Gift. Motion passed.

**Future Bids:**

2007 Ladies European – June 2007, Moscow, Russia.  
2007 Junior Worlds – Bracciano, Italy and SanRemo, Italy presented. Alessandro Rodati will e-mail suggested changes and the European NS will vote in the next month.  
2007 European Masters – Lake Caldonazzo, Italy, hosted & organized by Assoc. Velica Trentina and SCIRA Germany  
2007 South European proposed for Valencia, Spain  
2008 Women's Worlds: Spain will submit a bid from Santiago de la Ribera  
2009 European Masters – Valencia, Spain is interested  
2007 European Snipe Cup – Belgium  
2010 Europeans – Belgium (held in Holland)

**Granted Bids for Europe:**

2007 Worlds, Oporto, Portugal  
2008 World Masters, Sweden. Walborg, south of Gothenberg will host in August. Good accommodations, boat ferry, castle and social events planned. European Star Class Champs in 2004.  
2008 Europeans – Las Palmas, Grand Canary, Spain.  
2006 Jr Europeans – Palma, Mallorca

Thierry suggested that NS look closely at calendars to organized transporting of boats more easily. Hemisphere officers need to control calendars.

**Elections:**

Stefano and those present wanted to thank all the current European officers for their hard work and dedication to the Snipe Class, especially Gilles Boisaubert and Claudio Ciufu.

**General Secretary: Stefano Longhi, Italy**

**Vice Secretary: Fernando Tajuelo, Spain**

**Northern Europe: Ola Nygard, Norway**

**Southern Europe: Herbert Hoerterich, Germany**

**Eastern Europe: Alexei Fomin, Russia**

**New Business:**

Proposal from Finland:

Submitted by Kai Saarhelo, National Secretary

**Motion:** In case countries are not sending maximum amount of sailors to Championship races, there would be a possibility to fill these “empty places” with the first come – first served basis. This will be completed in the order of entries and written confirmation “I wish to participate in case there are empty places.”

**Main target:** to create regattas with the volume of 60-80 boats.

Motion failed.

Stefano suggested a committee be formed to make changes to the European Deed of Gift. Stefano, Ben and Kai will submit changes to the European Deed of Gift. Piotr Manczak proposed offering open places to countries without Snipes.

**Old Business:**

- Elena Perez wants to look at the Championship to confirm that Jorge Haenalt won the European Championship 3 times.
- Elena Perez suggests a limit the time on the water for 6 hours from starting. It was discussed to leave the decision up to the SCIRA Representative.
- Proposal for SCIRA to create a list of Race officers who are familiar with Snipe race management. Perhaps 2 per Hemisphere.
- Kai Saarhelo discussed a sail lottery through a donation from Olympic Sails: free sails and discounted sails will be offered.
- Z-flag: Birger suggests posting of OCS/Z-flag at weather mark and at next start.
- Giovanni Galeotti and the Junior Committee recommended the junior age limit be raised to 21. European Board supports.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm