

SNIFE CLASS INTERNATIONAL RACING ASSOCIATION

2007

National Secretaries Meeting

Porto, Portugal

Clube de Vela Atlântico

1. The meeting was called to order Saturday, September 8, 2007 at 9:20am at the Clube de Vela Atlantico by Commodore Robert Dunkley.
2. Those in attendance were: Robert Dunkley, Bahamas; Andre Callot, Belgium; Antonio Poncell, Chile, Kai Saarlo, Finland; Sylvie Le Bour-Boisubert, France; Miguel Graca, Germany, Stefano Longhi, Italy; Birger Jansen, Norway; Luis Pessanha, Portugal; Jan Persson, Denmark; Pepe Perez and Elena Perez, Spain; Zibi Rakocy & Piotr Manczyk, Poland; Pedro Garra, Uruguay; Barb Evans, USA; Ben VanCauwenberg, Germany; Cliff Browning, Member at Large; David Odell, Treasurer and Jerelyn Biehl, Executive Director.
3. Greetings from Portuguese National Secretary Luis Pessanha. Luis discussed the logistics of Portugal hosting the Worlds and he anticipates growth in Snipe activity in Portugal.
4. Commodore Robert Dunkley welcomed everyone and thanked them for the growth of the Snipe fleet around the world, commenting on the addition of 3 new countries in the past several years. Commodore Dunkley discussed the reorganization of the Board and the importance toward the future of SCIRA.
5. A motion was made by Barb Evans, Birger Jansen seconded to approve the 2005 minutes. Motion approved.

6. National Secretaries Reports

Bahamas: 12 registered boats with 15 in the country. The main event is the Winter Championship with the Circuit. Development of the fleet is the future of the juniors. The Bahamas started a junior sailing program 3 years ago, expanding to other islands. There are approximately 80 active juniors. The Jr. Snipe Nationals were held recently with 5 boats. The Bahamas intends to use the Snipe as the next step.

Norway: Membership is stable with 4 very active fleets. Our nationals had 50-60 boats per year. For 2007 we had 48 boats and it was held in the southern city of Risør. The Women's Nationals have between 20-30 boats with 23 this year. Junior activity is difficult but we hope the increase in the age will help. We sent 1 team to the Jr. Worlds, 9 teams to the Master Worlds in the Bahamas and 1 team to the Women's Worlds in Uruguay. 28 teams competed in the Wibroe Cup and 1 boat in the European Masters in Italy. The west coast is active in Bergen. Learn-to-sail programs are popular.

Belgium: Belgium is in good shape. Last year we had 20 boats in our Nationals and our sailors travel around Europe. For the moment we have 34 paid boat owners. The Snipe is the largest 2 person dinghy in Belgium. In August we held the Benelux (Belgium, Netherland, Luxembourg) Cup in Holland for the 470, Finn, Laser, Fireball, Spanker, Solo Contender, Flying Dutchman and Snipe and the Snipe was the largest fleet. There was a lot of interest to switch to the Snipe, and one Fireball crew has already. We hope to attain new members to the Snipe. The 420 National Coach is sailing in the Snipe and we hope to have some of the kids crew and sail Snipes.

Poland: The activity in Poland attracts Opti and Cadet sailors to the Snipe. A sponsor helps promote the Snipe. (see report)

Italy: the membership has increased this year. The Nationals were held in Gaeta last week with 45 boats and the dates affect participation. Italy has a bid for the Women's Worlds for 2008. The Italians host the Caldonazzo event with Germany and Poland, which is a good event for everyone with 50 boats. The Jr Worlds were held 3 weeks ago in Sanremo and was successful. Italy has started a regatta that includes go-kart, disco and cooking events in combination with a regatta. Italian sailors traveled to Spain & Norway to competition.

France: The situation is not strong at the moment as the decline in sailing is general. There has been a 10% decrease in sailing and reaching 30% for dinghies alone. Overall sailors are aging with fewer junior crews in France. The Federation has not been supportive recently. The French Snipe class is the smallest class recognized by the Federation. The number of Snipe is stable with

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40-45 registered boats in the last 10 years, we also have the same number of events (35-40) and yet the activity is dropping due to a poor attendance to regattas; 1998, 38 starts per boat; 2001 30 starts; 2006 22 starts (on average.) The main action to combat is communication through our 3-issue newsletter; the French website; attendance at the Paris boat show.

Denmark: The situation is not strong as we only manage to have 12-15 boats on the line which is the minimum for the Federation to recognize dinghy classes. Denmark has combined the Nationals with the Wiibroe Cup to increase participation. The Wiibroe Cup is in its 40th year. Dinghy sailing is not strong with no support for the Snipe. The Federation gave 1 boat to each club for junior sailors. Most Opti sailors want to become 49er sailors. We hope the sailors having children will come back to the Snipe now that they are raising families. Espergaerde is the only fleet in Denmark currently.

Germany: SCIRA Germany is increasing. Beginning in 1998 with 4 boats and 8 members, we're actually counting 14 members and 10 boats. With the support of the Trento Sailing Association we're organizing each year the "German Open" which has become one of the most frequented regattas in Europe. After about 25 participants in the first year there are now normally 50 boats on the starting line and they all come back in the following year, because they really get offered "Serious Sailing, Serious Fun." With the help of my good friend, John Broughton, we were able to bring the European Cup in 2005 to Lake Caldonazzo. Combined with the German Open there were more than 60 boats! John was also helpful in creating the European Masters, which was held this year on Lake Caldonazzo with 40 participants. Our contribution to the 75th anniversary of the Snipe Class will be the first Snipe regatta in Germany on Lake Ammersee, to be held September 8-9 with the participation of our Italian friends. There will be awarded a challenge and so I hope Snipe sailors will meet each year in September on this lake, near Munich. As SCIRA Germany is a very active group, I have every confidence that we'll find a new members in the future and shall increase from year to year.

Chile: 500 sailors in all the classes in Chile. The Snipe has 1 fleet with 27 boats at the Nationals. Mexico and Argentina also participated. Behind the Optimist, the Snipe is the most popular class. We have 15-16 boats starting with an activity following after racing. The Federation supports the Snipe but the 420 was recently introduced. Chile sailors have been actively traveling, crossing the Andes for all foreign events. The Federation has a plan for the next 6 years and they recognize the Snipe as the most popular class, so they support the Snipe. Our fleet has been renewed with Primex producing boats again. The older boats have been sold to newer members to grow the fleet.

Spain: The membership is stable with 200 boats with 300 sailing around the country. Members attended the Europeans taking the top 5 spots. 60-70 boats attended the Nationals although it has decreased from the 100 in years previous. 12 junior teams are strong, but the women's teams are not many. Spain is not happy to increase the age limit, but we encourage free hosting of the juniors in the Open Worlds to encourage attendance. Spain supports the measurement clinic that was recently held in Portugal. Spain has submitted a bid to host the 2008 Women's World. Spain would like to host the World Masters in Valencia where the fleet is 40 years old.

Uruguay: Membership has increased to 16 boats & 39 members. 77% increase in the past 2 years. The Snipe is the best option for the junior sailors with consistent organization shows strength. The Snipe is the class after the Optimist in Uruguay. 6 to 13 to 18 is the increase in junior sailors. Holding the Women's Worlds has increased women's participation to get women into sailing. A critical mass of women sailing attracts more women (which attracts more men!) Key aspects are consistent organization, year-round sailing & ranking system. Uruguay encourages juniors to sail with the seniors to increase their competency. Class sponsorship has been very supportive. The Federation does not support the Snipe financially, but Uruguay looks toward a future of full sponsorship to promote sailing in Uruguay.

USA: Membership has been steady with a slight increase of 50 members (700 members, 500 boats). 65 attended at our Nationals, the largest since 1999. Financial position is strong. 4 roles have been identified by the Board: Public Relations, advertising & merchandise; Class Development Officer (help FC's and DGs), Int. Qualifications Officer; Regatta Quality Assurance position. Because our membership is diverse, the US is pushing the responsibilities down toward the 7 District Governors, giving money to help host fleet building activities. A new website and e-newsletter as well as a magazine are available for members. A member donated a large portion of

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money toward fleet development. A used boat donation program is in place to make boats available to newcomers. 30-40 people have used this boat with 5 new members joining & purchasing their own boats. The US is socializing the idea of opening the Nationals to non-residents. The 2008 Nationals will be held in San Francisco. The US will host the Jr and Open Worlds in 2009. The US has very few good SCIRA Representatives and is in need of building a bigger qualified list. US requested the assistance of SCIRA in developing a training program for SCIRA representatives.

Finland: The Federation nominates a Class of the Year and the Snipe has been selected after a successful Europeans in Pori. The SCIRA Finland Board consists of the NS and 7 members. Membership stands at 88 members, an increase from last year. 367 names are on the active Snipe e-mail list which includes 41 sailing related companies. The 75th Anniversary has caused Finland to nominate honorary members. Marketing is important to Finland to increase membership: boat show, website, communication including articles in magazines. Fleet activity is strong with 15 active boats in Helsinki. Snipe is active in multi-boat regattas to show the strength of the class. A Snipe flag can be purchased with the Snipe flag flown off boats at clubs. Calendar includes the Nationals and 5-6 Grand Prix ranking series. 22 boats attended the Nationals in Tampere, also promoting older boats. Finnish sailors travel to the Winter Circuit and other events. Kai suggested that newsletters from each country be sent to each National Secretary to share information.

Portugal: The objective was for Portugal to host a World Championship. 65 boats are registered with 30 active including past Olympic sailors. 55 boats were active in the mixed competition. The membership is younger with 2 becoming Masters in the next few years. The Federation does not support

Poland: Our activity plan is to attract juniors from the Cadet & Optimist classes; acquire sponsors and means for buying new boats. Through various events popularize the class among other sailing classes and local authorities, sailing authorities and the Polish Sailing Association. Organize annually the Nationals with the support of sponsors Primavera Polish Cup. Continue to organize a range of regattas for the Polish Cup series on weekends on various waters. Assist in the participation of members of Snipe Poland in various foreign events. Snipe Day-organization of regattas on May 30 in other forms. Statistics: 15 boats currently sailing with non sailing (due to disability of owners); 29 members; 12 non-sailing. Plan to purchase 2 more boats. Polish sailors participated in the German Open, Belgium Open, Europeans Masters, European Championship, World Championships and European Cup. We are also in contact with the Omega Class, a 3-person class present only in Poland.

Sweden: We have 55 boats and 80 members which is a positive trend. There are a few new boats and crews (juniors too). We have had teams in the Midwinters, Norwegian Championship, European Ladies and Junior Worlds. We had 2 boats at the International Boatshow in Stockholm this spring. Our Int. Swedish Championship was held with the Dragon class and the Royal Swedish Yacht Club was a big success. Information about the World Masters in Malmoe for 2008: The Snipes will have a separate course from the Star, Laser & 2.4m. A special social program for sailors will be held, but they will also be able to attend the big ceremonies with over 10,000 participants in other sports. www.emg2008.com is the website. The invitation letter and NOR will be published this fall. Sweden will arrange to have 10 charter boats and we ask neighboring countries to help bring an extra boat for charter.

Mexico: We have 6 boats of which 3 are ready to sail, but we are fixing them. The Class has been received very well, especially by our younger sailors. They like the adjustments and tactical racing. We hope to sail more with the US as it is closer and less expensive. We want to thank Mariana de Isaza, Jerry Thompson and David and Susan Odell for their help in starting our Mexican Snipe fleet.

Great Britain: Membership remains steady at 30 paid members. There has been a resurgence of activity at one club, Blue Circle Sailing Club and numbers are also up at Budworth Sailing Club. The number of boats traveling to open meeting is likely to remain constant with open meeting turnouts at 11-12 boats with the exception of Budworth at which turnouts are approximately 30 boats. The UK Nationals were held August 31-Sept 2 at Stone Sailing Club. UK boats have traveled to France, Norway and Denmark this season as well as Belgium and a crew at the Junior Worlds. SCIRA GBR is holding its own, but struggling to attract new sailors. Generally there is a

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shortage of good quality second hand boats to enable people who have bought a “starter” Snipe to progress further which is causing problems.

Canada: At this time Canada has one active fleet at Guelph Lake, Ontario. The fleet has been built using second hand boats with hull numbers from the mid 24,000 to the mid 28,000's. There are 12 boats of which 10 are resident in Guelph. Of the 10 resident boats, three are owned by the Guelph Community Boating Club and used in the club's co-op sailing program. Over the last 2 years 3 privately owned boats were bought by sailors from the co-op program. Four or five boats regularly participate in club races. The fleet has 2 open regattas, one in May and one in June or early July when the water is high. Fleet members are active on the regatta circuit in US District V and District III. Fleet members are also regulars at Bermuda Int Race Week. Canada sent a Snipe crew to the Pan Am Games in Brazil.

Colombia: Three years ago the Colombian Snipe class had come to a stand still. No new sailors were getting involved and the participation in championships had reduced about 25 percent. One of the reasons was, that some of the sailors came to a certain age and were not interested any more in sailing a small dinghy and bought larger boats, where they felt more comfortable. The other reason was, that the price of a new Snipe here in Colombia, due to taxes, is very high, as much as 300% of the original price, what makes it difficult for many to buy a new boat, and with their old boats they were not any more competitive.

About one and a half year ago, we started a program that was called “Adopt a crew”. This means that people who is not sailing but own excellent boats but do not want to sell them, borrow their boat for one year at least, to a crew that can not afford one, as long as they take very good care of the boat and complete a serious pre-established training program.

With this program, we got involved 5 new young skippers with their crews and as a result, we could send for the first time a Colombian team to the South American championship in Montevideo and 2 junior crews to the past Worlds in San Remo.

To lower the prices of new Snipes, since February 2007, SKIPPER SNIPE COLOMBIA, is building now with all the technology and support of SKIPPER SNIPE SWEDEN, boats of the same quality, but at a reasonable price as they do not have to pay the high taxes for the import. We are expecting that this will increase our fleets,

About the support we get from our Federation: as Snipe is included in most of the games of the area like: Juegos Bolivarianos, Central American and Caribbean games, South American games and Pan American games, it was established that Snipe is one of the classes to be sailed at our National Games 2008 next year, and this certainly will have the class expanded in other areas of the country.

In 2009 we want to have the South American championship to be sailed here in Cartagena and it has been proved, that nothing is better to increase the class, than having an international event.

So here, we see the future for the Snipe Class in a very positive way.

7. European Report: Goals included to better organize the European calendar and a separate calendar is posted on the Int. website to keep events from being scheduled on top of other events. Stefano asked each European NS to send his calendar to him to organize. European Measurement committee does not function and Stefano will bring this up at the Board meeting. Stefano encourages combining major events to make them more efficient with the availability of boats and crews.
8. Western Hemisphere & Orient Report: a conference call was held recently attended by Brazil, Puerto Rico, USA and SCIRA International with a report sent in by Canada. Discussion of the site for the NAs and SAs was held. 2008: Boston, Cottage Park. 2009: Puerto Rico. 2010 possibly Erie, PA. South Americans: following the normal rotation. 2008 Westerns: Punta del Este, Uruguay.
9. East European Report: no report
10. Championship Bids
Discussion was held regarding the position of SCIRA Representative and a request to have the Regatta Management Packet to be posted on the website for greater access and a summary in the Snipe Bulletin.
11. New Business
Persson Marine handed out a paper regarding the status of StarMarine & Persson Marine.

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- A study has been made to create a world ranking list and Stefano Longhi & Ben VanCauwenberg will present to the Board.
 - The On-line Registration system was explained to the NS.
 - The new Measurer's Handbook and measurement process was discussed.
 - Thanks to Portugal for hosting the Worlds.
 - Discussion was held on the various proposals before the Board.
 - Snipe Bulletin: Denmark, Chile & France have not received.
 - The SCIRA Website it currently being re-designed. The ability to add more updated information will be added.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm