

European National Secretaries Meeting
Las Palmas, Spain
December 2, 2008

European General Secretary Stefano Longhi called the meeting to order at 6:20pm. Those in attendance were: Birger Jansen, Norway; Bart Janssens, Belgium; Manu Hens, Belgium; Jean Jacques Frebault, France; Eric Berron, France; Jose Perez Morales, Spain; Alessandro Rodati, Italy and Jerelyn Biehl, Executive Director.

Stefano welcomed all attendees and discussed some issues with regards to the European Championship.

1. RCNGC has requested 1 more entry over the Deed of Gift. Discussion was held and the general consensus was to stick to the Deed of Gift which would not allow an extra entry.
2. Junior age. Jordi Triay is the current Jr. European champion but his crew is not a junior. Discussion was held and it was agreed that the Jordi Triay cannot sail as the Jr European entry unless his crew is a junior.
3. Measurement began earlier, which was good, but all competitors should have been informed so they could be prepared.

1) The minutes of the 2006 European National Secretaries meeting were proposed as circulated. Motion passed to accept as distributed.

2) Country Reports:

Norway: Birger Jansen reported that membership is stable. They had 60-70 boats at their Nationals and 15-20 at their Women's Nationals. They need to focus on attracting more junior members. There are 4-5 fleets going strong. They would be interested in hosting the next Europeans.

Belgium: Membership is stable and all sailing is held in Antwerp. 30-35 boats attended the Nationals which were held in Holland. It was a small fleet, but strong competition. There is 1 female team but no juniors to date.

France: France has experienced a decrease in the number of boats actively sailing. National were held in Lorient in July.

Portugal: There are 60 boats in the country but only 25 are active. Many new sailors are coming from the 420 class and Olympic boats. The Mixed Championship was the biggest race in all of Portugal with 47 boats. The Nationals were held on the Algarve.

Spain: Spain recently held the Women's Worlds and the Championship was won by a Spanish team. There were just over 20 teams representing 9 countries. More boats are joining the Class and the junior membership is strong. Many of the seniors of the fleets sail with Optimist sailors. At some regattas we are mixing the regattas with owners as crew and juniors as skippers. We have organized the nationals & juniors together a few days prior. Pepe welcomes all to the Europeans in the Canary Islands. The Spanish Nationals are closed in La Coruña, but the Cope Espana in Mar Menor is an open championship.

Italy: Membership is increasing in numbers. 160 boats are active. We have noticed some duplication of numbers in the database (from years past). The Piada Trophy was a huge success. Nationals for 2009 will be held in Tuscany and are closed to Italians only. However, the ranking events are open to all.

Finland: Statistics and history

The first Snipes in Finland were built in 1947. More than 800 boats have been registered since 1947

Largest double handed One Design Class in Finland together with International 505

59 sailors have participated in Snipe Regattas 2008

22 boats have been racing under Finish flag in 2008

Six active fleets; Helsinki, Lappeenranta, Turku, Tampere, Pori, Oulu, Uusikaarlepyy

Membership 2006

Paid SCIRA members

22 skippers

24 crews

22 boats

Activities

Finnish Nationals 20 participating boats in Hanko.
Ranking series 6 regattas, 28 participating boats, 59 sailors
New Finnish Champions: Claus Carpelan / Riku Vaariskoski

Local Fleet Championships

Helsinki, Uusikaarlepyy
International 2 boats in Midwinters
2 boats in Snipe Europeans

Other activities www.snipe.fi

Promotion articles in Navigare, magazine of Finnish Sailing Federation
Support on selling and buying boats
Introduction and training events

Trends

Second generation of Snipe sailors starting to enter Snipe racing despite of tight competition against Olympic classes.

Local fleet activity is the key to the success. Wide geographical spread of relatively small fleets is a challenge.

Snipe is still the best choice for adult sailors.

Sailing and especially Snipe sailing is a great sport. However, enthusiastic Snipe sailors have to be even more active on promoting sailing and our class in the middle of the pressure from other activities

Targets for 2009

Re-activate sleeping Snipes to participate Ranking Series

Support local fleet activity

Promote Snipe to newcomers in the Helsinki Boat Show in February

Organize introduction and training events

Renewal of the www.snipe.fi

Main 2009 racing events in Finland

Finnish Nationals, August 7-9, 2009. Location Tampere

- Around 25 Snipes, tight competition, good aftersail

Helsinki Regatta, June 27-28. Helsinki

- Biggest dinghy sailing event in Finland

- Multiple classes, excellent racing, good sight seeing in Helsinki

Nykarleby Regatta, June 25-26. Uusikaarlepyy

- Most northern Snipe regatta in the world in 2009

Pori Open, September 5-6. Pori

- Best sailing venue in Finland. Host of 2006 Europeans.

If you are interested in Snipe sailing in Finland, contact Finnish National Secretary (www.snipe.fi) for more details on travel and lodging arrangements, off-sailing activities, rental boats, etc

3) Calendar of Dates. Stefano would like to control the European calendar to avoid any over scheduling. The European calendar is updated every 15 days and Stefano asked that all NS submit dates to him for inclusion.

4) A new bid form is available. Bid forms must be completely signed or they are not considered complete.

Europeans 2008: This event is well organized yet communication was very bad. There were container problems - no paperwork and it was late. Miguel pointed out that the Snipe is not an Olympic class therefore the sailors are not professionals and are not as used to shipping boats.

5) Jr European Deed of Gift: The Jr European Deed of Gift change was passed as proposed: an open event with a minimum of 3 countries participating. Motion passed as proposed.

6) South European Championship: A proposal was presented to name the event the "Sergio Michel Trophy – South European Championship". Unanimous approval.

7) Future Bids:

a. **2010 European Championship:** The rotation is for it to be held in Northern Europe. The following countries will be asked to submit a bid: NOR, DEN, GBR, BEL & GER (Finland held the last Europeans in the north). A decision will be taken in March 2009.

2009 Masters: this event has been moved from 2008 to 2009 and will be held in Trieste, Italy.

2009 European Masters: Bids have been received from Malaga, Spain (Feb 27-March 1) and SanRemo, Italy (Easter). The 2 bids will be circulated and a decision made via e-mail. *Note: after the meeting, Spain has retracted their bid.*

2009 Jr Europeans: A discussion was held to move this championship to 2010 to be held in conjunction with the Europeans.

2009 Ladies Europeans: bids are open. Discussion was it could possibly be held in conjunction with the Masters.

2009 East Europeans: bids are open.

More discussion was held that ladies & junior events could possibly be held together. Other options:

Ladies & Juniors

Juniors & Seniors

Ladies & Masters

2009 Nordics – Oslo, Norway, Sept. 22

2009 European Cup: Poznan, Poland, July 24-26

2009 South Europeans: Caldonazzo, Italy hosted by Germany in conjunction with the German Open June 5-7.

Elections – Unanimous decision

General Secretary - Stefano Longhi, ITA

Vice GS – Fernando Tajuelo, ESP

North – Ola Nygard, NOR

South – Herbert Hoerterich, GER

East – Zbi Rakocy, POL

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm