

2017 National Secretaries Meeting

**La Coruna, Spain
Tuesday, August 8, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Commodore Gweneth Crook at 8:10pm. She asked Spanish National Secretary Martin Bermudez to say a few words and he greeted everyone and welcomed them to Spain.

Those in attendance were: Commodore Gweneth Crook, Vice Commodore Pietro Fantoni, European General Secretary & Spanish NS Martin Bermudez; WH&O General Secretary Raul Rios, Sr.(PUR), Zbigniew Rakocy (POL), Kai Saarhelo (FIN), Pedro Andrade (POR), Manuel Vilela (POR), Francesco Fontana (ITA), Julian Inglis (CAN), Yannick Laumans (BEL), Kathleen Tocke (USA), Rafael Gagliotti (BRA), Diego Figueroa (PER), Christian Andersen (DEN) and Jerelyn Biehl, Executive Director

The minutes from the 2015 National Secretaries meeting were approved as previously distributed.

National Secretary Reports:

Spain: Martin Bermudez comments that the Class is strong and they currently have 380 members and are encouraging more family racing.

Canada: Canada is facing challenges and hoping to recover. There is only 1 active club/fleet where Snipes are concentrated and they try to get the fleet to travel to Toronto. There are a few junior teams.

Italy: 250 members and 150 boats, but mostly master members. 30 junior teams are racing and the focus is on trying to encourage younger sailors to sail the Snipe.

USA: The class is stable and there are concentrations of juniors in different regions, promoted by parents and older sailors. The numbers of regattas have fallen off (too many regattas) and there is high enthusiasm for women's sailing (university and post-university age).

Portugal - 20% of the fleet are juniors. Membership has doubled over the past year in Portugal. A bid has been submitted to host the 2018 World Masters in Algarve.

Finland - Snipe Class 70 years in Finland

SCRA Finland is celebrating its 70th year in Finland. Since the very beginning Snipe has been the largest and most active 2 person one design class. Grand Celebration Party is organised in September at Nationals - you are all welcome to join.

Most popular 2 sailor one-design class

Nearly 1000 Snipes (9xx) are officially registered in Finland.

Snipe is the only class that can show 70 years continuous record of official National Championships.

We have 5 active fleets at the moment.

High activity level

Ranking series consists of 7 regattas in addition to Masters Nationals. Snipe is also chosen as the class for the Student Sailing Nationals 2017.

Average participation in ranking series is 12 snipes, and in Nationals typically 23-26 boats.

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3-5 crews are active at international regattas

Diverse membership profile

Most of our teams are mixed or all female or parent&child teams.

Masters are dominating the Finnish market. We have 46 active masters out of total of about 80 active sailors.

In Finland the number of active (participating ranking series and nationals) juniors is at about 10. In addition we have about five young sailors up to 25 years.

Juniors are sailing usually with their parents and the "older" young ones on their own crews.

350 names in our mailing list, good pool to grow more active sailors.

Active promotion

This year SCIRA Finland has organised 5 Try Snipe events in three locations with over 30 participants. These have been organised in cooperation with local clubs and Finnish Sailing Association.

SCIRA Finland is active with web pages and Facebook, learning to use Twitter and other social media channels.

Our traditional focus has been in adult sailors, and we should continue to do that that.

Snipe is #1 class for mixed crews, both in age and gender. We have also a great opportunity to promote Snipe as a less expensive and less formal class to young sailors who don't continue in the olympic growth path. This should be done in cooperation with local clubs and sailing associations.

Focus on increasing the momentum and preparing for Europeans 2018

SCIRA Finland focus is in increasing participation of current members and attracting new sailors to the class.

Currently also supporting BSF on arranging the best in class Europeans for 2018.

Welcome to Pori for 2017 Finnish Nationals and 2018 Europeans!

Poland - Over the last two years our fleet has grown a little. We have now 25 boats but 18 paid decals. In our association there are 34 paid members and a lot of fun. Every year 1-2 boats and a few members join our Polish fleet. Most of them are senior and masters. We have a problem with a small number of juniors. This year we haven't organized Polish Junior Championship for the first time.

This year on the Kiekrz Lake we have organized John Broughton European Cup. 20 boats from BEL, ESP, ITA, NOR and POL took part in this event. The winner of the regatta was Manu Hens who sailed with Thierry Andrys from Belgium. That was a very good event according with our motto „serious sailing serious fun”.

This year we have acquired two new sponsors for the Snipe Association: Kingspan, an international pioneer in new technologies with energy conservation, and a Polish part of the global company McCormick, a world leader creating innovative flavor solutions. With their help and support organizing regattas is much easier.

Polish sailors traveled to represent Poland in many events in Europe: Belgian Open, German Open, European in Santiago de la Ribera last year and regattas in Croatia, Austria, Italy.

For the last two years we have organized Polish Masters which have a lot of participants, not only limited to Snipe sailors. The event is very effective in promoting the class.

Additionally, every year we organize 15-15 regattas through the season .

Brazil - Rafael Gagliotti is the new NS and is trying to maintain the good work by former NS Breno Bianchi. Brazil has many fleets with large distances over the country. The

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Nationals were held in Ilhabela with 70 boats. Junior teams are strong with many boats. The Class works on trying to get Opti sailors to join the Snipe class. A program is in place to help under 17 yr. old sailors by paying their entry fees to regattas. Brazil is interested in hosting the 2019 Worlds in Ilhabela if there are no other bids.

Puerto Rico - The fleet is small and grows in the years leading up to the Pan Am and CAC Games. There is difficulty recruiting Juniors as they cannot afford the boat.

Belgium - We are in good shape although it is difficult to get everybody racing. Attendance nationals last year was ok. Other two men boats have difficulty to survive. The project now is to buy some second hand boats to lean them out. Say hire. If interested they could be by the boat deducting the already paid hire of the selling price. We hope so to get more youngsters in the class. The Class is buying 2 Snipes for younger people to use.

Peru - The Government purchased 10 boats owned by the Federation. Many juniors are participating. Peru is hosting the Pan Am Games and other Games, which raised interest & participation. There are not many female sailors in Peru, which makes it difficult now that the Pan Am Games are mixed. We have 7-8 boats are regattas.

Denmark - Activity in Denmark is in steady state. 14 members and 9 boats. We have one major regatta, NB Snipe Cup. We aim to maintain steady state.

Croatia - By this report I'm pleased to submit the report of the present Class status in Croatia. For the past two years, the Class is more or less stable with 9 boats registered. The clubs are organizing total of four events with 8 to 18 participants, which is the number that is slightly increasing among other because of close cooperation with our Italian friends with whom we are trying to promote and increase the class in North Adriatic. Unfortunately, there is no interest for the class between the youth sailors and this is something we need to work on and focus in the near future together with increase of class in general.

European General Secretary - Martin reported that he has traveled to Oslo, Poland & Portugal and of course Spain. He has noticed small fleets all over Europe. Since Northern Europe has a shorter sailing season, they have to work hard to maintain their fleets. He hopes to visit Belgium, France & Italy in the coming months. He would like to consider a European Circuit.

WH&O General Secretary - Raul commented that BRA, USA & ARG are the largest countries in the WH. At the 2016 WH&O Championship, only 7 countries participated with only 1 team from the US, mostly due to the cost of travel. The SA Championship only had ARG & BRA represented while the NAs had 5 countries but only 25 boats. CAC & Pan Am Games help keep fleets strong. 2018 schedule: NAs: San Diego in October; SAs Brazil over Easter. Still looking for a WH&O host.

East European Secretary - A great sporting and organizational success ended in the second edition John Broughton Trophy - European Cup and Polish Championship organized on 21-23.07.2017 in Poznan on Lake Kiekrz. The weather was not good for us, but with the moderate wind we played 6 races. All the time the competition was strong, and the classification changed to the last race. Finally, the European Cup again

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won the best crew Manu Hens and Anders Teherra, second place were Peeters Jan and Janssens Nathalie, and third Janssens Bart and Jacobs Eva, all crews from Belgium. Great congratulations to the medalists. Sailors from five countries participated in the regatta. On Saturday evening there was a formal dinner with music and fireworks. On Sunday the prize giving ceremony took place. At this place, we must express our appreciation and thanks to the Colleagues of the Yacht Club of the Great Poland for the beautiful preparation of the regatta. Next year we plan to organize the Eastern European Cup, maybe outside of Poland in another country of our region.

This year we will organize the second Open Masters Championship of Poland Masters. We hope for a big promotion of the class and gaining new SNIPE supporters.

It is still difficult to contact with colleagues from Russia. The impact has also difficult political situation in our region of Europe.

Due to the numerous questions and the aim of popularizing and increasing the possibility of purchasing cheap SNIPE boats in Eastern European countries, I decided to create Internet forum with offers of cheap used SNIPE boats. Please forward to my e-mail address: r.zakrzewski@texol.pl full offers with photos of the sale of boats up to 4 thousand EUR in English. I hope that this will help to popularize SNIPE in this part of Europe.

Championship Rotation. The grid was discussed and has been updated on the website.

New Business:

Championship courses: discussion was held over the format at the 2017 Worlds. Discussion of using the trapezoid course and/or adding a reach to the finish to turn around races faster. Two courses are ideal, but add to the cost of the organizers.

Old Business:

Membership payment: the Board is considering adding individual payments on the website. Discussion over how to allow countries to include their country payments as well. Brazil publishes a list of paid/non-paid members. Other countries cited laws precluding them from this.

Worlds Entry: discussion of asking countries to hold their qualifiers earlier to meet the Deed of Gift.

Junior & Women's Worlds: compliance with the World Sailing Regulations had precluded SCIRA from awarding titles to the past Women's & Junior championship regattas. Because there have not been 30 competitors at both, the titles cannot be used. However, a proposal has been submitted to World Sailing asking that they re-evaluate these regulations with regards to women & junior events to encourage more participation & support.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.