The last edition of the bi-annual Snipe Women’s World Championship held in Newport, Rhode Island in 2018 saw thirty-two teams from ten nations. It was organized by women, all competitors in the event, and it was the largest turn-out in two decades.

In 2019, Class Commodore Pietro Fantoni from Italy, who regularly sails with women and has been a major proponent of women’s sailing, re-established the Women’s European Championship in Antwerp, Belgium. The event attracted eleven nations, including sailors from Argentina and the United States. Again, the event planning team, was primarily women.

And finally this year, Brazil and Spain added women’s nationals to their schedules and in the US, there is a newly planned women’s circuit made up of regional women’s events called Women’s Challenges, run by women from fleets.

The Snipe is very affordable and depending upon the vintage, a well-cared for 20-year old boat is still fast. It is the only non-Olympic, non-youth class that has many women’s championships. The Snipe attracts women, post-Olympic campaign who want to continue high level international racing in an athletic dinghy. Also, because the boat is so tuneable, a wide range of sizes and ages can sail the boat well.

November 17, 2010
Women’s championships do have a wind maximum of 18 knots, but female skippers can always find a bigger male crew for international events in windy venues. Skippers Juliana Duque of Brazil and Portugal’s Mafalda Pires de Lima are no strangers to the top of the fleet at the Senior Worlds and the Continental Championships, sailing with male crews.

While cost, simplicity, international regattas, and lack of double-handed alternatives attract female sailors to the Snipe, it is the people and the atmosphere that keep them coming back. The top sailors in the Class help teams, by running clinics, so the technical boat is not so daunting to newcomers.

While the top women’s teams push hard at the front of the fleet, the cut-throat atmosphere that tends to persist in Olympic sailing is largely absent and unlike Olympic sailing, there is a true social scene after racing, so sailors get to know one and other and look forward to the next event.

Here’s video from Miami during the from a clinic while at the front of tropical storm Eta:

https://youtu.be/SrccySdqjGQ