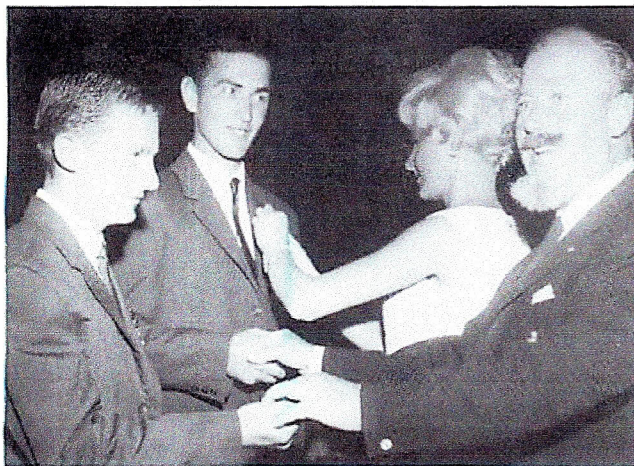


Jugoslavia Won European Championship With 1-1-1-4-2 Sweden Second With 3-2-4-2-1-2 Series — Norway Had Third

OLD RIVALRY IS RESUMED. THE LAST TIME IT WAS NORWAY, JUGOSLAVIA, AND SWEDEN.



NEW CHAMPIONS - Skipper Grego Antun (left) and his crew, Nikolic Simo of Yugoslavia receive decorations and congratulations. — Foto by Eric Nilsson.

The European Snipe Championship, scheduled every other year, was held for the 9th time August 1-5, 1966, at Karlshamn, a pleasant small town with a large harbour in the area of Blekinge, known as Sweden's Garden, situated on the Baltic Coast. The harbour mouth, protected by numerous small islands with rich foliage and wooded ridges afforded a large expanse of clear water for setting Olympic courses.

The measuring, checking of sails and spars, and weighing all boats was completed early Sunday, so that a practice race was held that afternoon. This was won by Sweden. After this, the official opening ceremony was performed with the hoisting of the national flags at the Karlshamn Segelsallskap Clubhouse located on a rocky island. The Snipes were kept a short distance away at Lillevik, a pleasant small well-protected bay from which the boats sailed through a narrow entrance. This was a short distance from Karlshamn through a fine wooded area known as Vagga Park.

15 boats representing the following 14 countries were entered: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Italy, Jugoslavia, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey. Norway was allowed 2 entries because in addition to the 1966 National Champion Sigurd Haug, the Norwegian Nils Monstad, who won the title when it was last held in Italy in 1964, was by custom allowed to defend his championship.

First Race - Held Monday morning with a strength 2 wind, a very closely fought battle ensued between Grego Antun and Nikolic Simo of Jugoslavia and Jukka and Pekka Niimiranta of Finland. They rounded the last leeward mark for the final beat neck-and-neck, Jugoslavia eventually drew away to win while Sweden (Trygun Liljestrang and Jan Rudberg) finished 3rd.

Second Race - After a brief pause while the boats remained in the water, a start was made. All the boats approached on starboard with Jugoslavia right on the line, and most went over to port tack pretty quickly. At the first mark, it was very close with Sweden just ahead of Jugoslavia and Switzerland. France, coming in on starboard and sailing slightly free, got in front of Italy and Norway (Monstad), on port tacks and losing speed. In the reach, Jugoslavia worked up to windward and took the lead and stayed there for good. Positions were maintained in general by the rest, but Finland started working up from 13th at the first mark. On the 2nd beat, Jugoslavia covered Sweden well on the port side, and Finland was now in 7th place. On the run, positions were maintained. Coming on the final beat, Sweden again went well out to port with Jugoslavia covering,

and trying to get free, Sweden tacked repeatedly. But Jugoslavia eventually gave up trying to cover as they were afraid other boats might work up on them. As they had done previously, France tried a long port tack out to starboard. Jugoslavia got the winning gun 20 seconds ahead of Sweden with France 3rd and Norway 4th. Finland finally finished her gallant comeback in 5th.

Jugoslavia at the end of the first day with two 1sts had started off the series on a very sound footing.

Third Race - Tuesday saw an overcast sky changing to rain and a strong wind causing many to put on flatter sails. As they juggled for a start, the wind dropped to force 4 in a choppy sea. There was considerable crowding at the port end with boats running out of water, and after two general recalls, the start was delayed for some time. When the start was made, the wind had eased further and the boats stayed on the port end. Jugoslavia soon tacked to starboard and pulled up well after an indifferent start while France and Finland quickly went over to port after crossing on starboard. Finland appeared to hold on this tack too long, for Jugoslavia was first around the mark and Sweden crowded in just ahead of them. France was 4th. On the 2nd reach, Jugoslavia drew away to a clear lead as in the previous races, while Finland passed Sweden, who was apparently handicapped with a flat mainsail. Around the home mark, Jugoslavia covered the following boats to the line, concentrating on Sweden and France, leaving Finland alone to carry on on port tack. France again went out on a long port tack while Jugoslavia stayed with Sweden, constantly increasing their lead. France meantime gained consistently, moving from 5th to edge out Finland on the finishing line for 2nd place. So it was Jugoslavia again with France 2nd, Finland 3rd, Sweden 4th, and Spain 5th.

Fourth Race - After a break of 30 minutes, with the sun now making conditions more pleasant and the wind dropping to force 2/3, a start was made in quite a nasty swell. Bunching at the port end forced many boats over and a recall was made. They got away cleanly at the next attempt with the leaders in a group three-quarters of the way down the line on starboard. Jugoslavia, France, and Sweden - as they went out on port tack, Sweden was not able to point quite as high and Jugoslavia kept working up to windward with France close behind. At the mark, it was Jugoslavia, Sweden, Norway, France, Denmark, Switzerland, and Turkey.

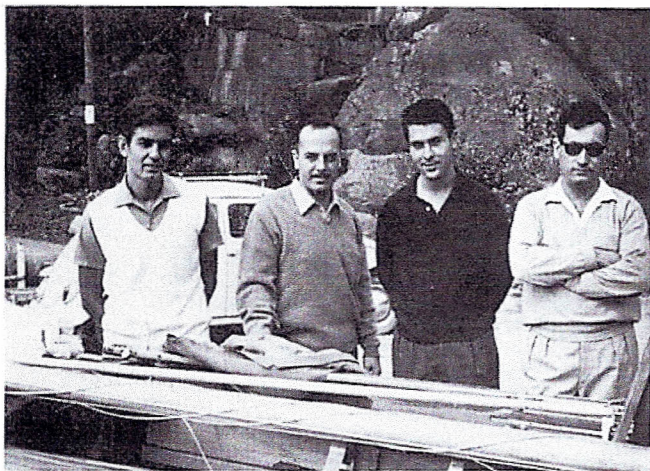
Here the Jugoslavs swung smoothly around onto the reach for the next mark and immediately drew further away to establish a clear lead, repeating the pattern of the other races. The order was the same starting the 2nd beat. When France tacked away, Norway split tacks and with increasing wind, the maneuver paid off for France as she slipped into 3rd place. Turkey, getting used to her borrowed boat, also moved up to 6th. No change during the run, and they all took small tacks up the middle on the final beat. Jugoslavia kept opening up and crossed 1 min. 20 secs. ahead of Sweden, with France 3rd. Turkey nearly had 4th place, but had to pinch while Portugal sailed free across the line to take the spot.

Thus, with 4 races sailed and 3 to go with one discard, the perfect 1-1-1-1 score for Jugoslavia looked mighty good, but remembering how they were in a similar position in Italy in 1964, but lost the title in the last 2 races, they continued to keep their fingers crossed. Sweden, France, Finland, and Italy were all close on their tail. Wednesday was set aside for a rest day, and with stronger winds forecast, all anticipated the approaching climax.

Fifth Race - The sky was overcast and hazy with a light swell on the water. Wind varied during the race from force 1 to 3 and boats were all over the course. At the mark, it was Denmark, Norway, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, and Jugoslavia. On the reaches, Jugoslavia first took over Sweden while Norway shot pass Denmark to take the lead by a boat's length and as the



A LITTLE CONFUSION - It's rather difficult to figure but just who is going where as these boats round the mark at the end of a run. Finland 15901 appears to be the only boat in a good clear position. — Nilsson Photo.

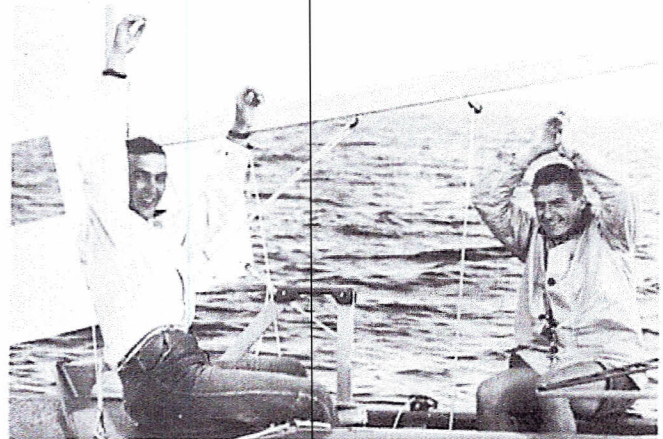


TURKISH TEAM IN SWEDEN - (l. to r.) Ergun Sengun (crew); Mufit Camat; Rasit Yilmaz (skipper); Macit Baluc, District Sec. wind dropped, Monstad moved further ahead. Spain and France also moved up on Sweden, and on the 2nd beat, Jugoslavia fought it out with them, as Italy pulled up into 2nd position after gaining 30 seconds on leading Norway. At the finish, it was Norway by 20 secs., Italy, Denmark, Jugoslavia, and France.

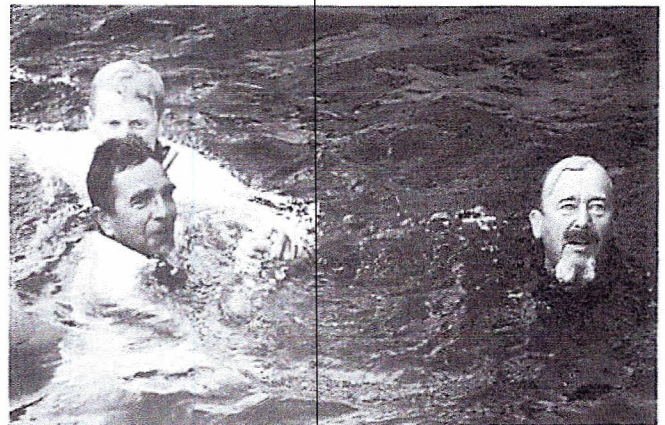
Sixth Race - Force 3 wind under clear, sunny skies. This was the closest race of all, for 5 boats got out ahead of the rest of the fleet early in the first lap. On the 2nd beat, the leaders were Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Jugoslavia in order. They all split and traded tacks and it was first one and then the other in the lead and it was touch-and-go as to who would win. Sweden usually crossed first as the boats converged, and finally barely managed to beat Jugoslavia as they converged just in front of the finish line. Denmark was 3rd again; Finland 4th; and Norway 5th.

Thus sailing brilliantly in this race to take 2nd place, Jugoslavia was now assured of the Championship, with Sweden the apparent runner-up. The fight for 3rd place promised thrills between Norway, Finland, Italy, and France.

Seventh Race - Overcast sky; no sign of predicted heavy weather; wind force 2/3; slight chop. This was Norway's race, as she was first over the starting line and led Sweden, Italy, Finland, Turkey, Jugoslavia, and France around the windward mark. Then as the first 4 boats drew slightly away. Italy closed on Sweden but was luffed out of the race. Positions stayed the same during the two reaches, but then split tacks with the leaders saw first Sweden and Norway changing positions along with all the others. In a dropping wind, Portugal moved up so that the end of the beat it was Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Jugoslavia, and France.



SIGNS OF VICTORY - Nikolic Simo and Grego Antun acknowledge spectator cheers after the last race. — Nilsson Photo.



RACE COMMITTEE HAVING A BATH - (l. to r.) Bengt Kilsater, General Secretary for Europe Svend Rantil, and Ove Hermansen On the run, France dropped 2 places. The wind increased slightly again, and unfortunately altered directions so that the boats were all able to lay the finishing line on one tack, thus robbing the spectators of what promised to be a closely fought last beat, which would have been a fitting climax to the regatta. The finish was as listed above.

Social Program - A visit was arranged to the Tingsryd Brewery and Facit-Halda typewriter factory. Also a boating expedition in Karlshamn Archipelago for which the sea was fortunately calm and the sun shone brightly. The prize giving was held in the local theatre with all competitors receiving medals and the first 6 teams expensive Swedish glass vases appropriately etched with Snipers.

A feature of this regatta was the hospitality provided, which included for all competitors and representatives, lodging with local families. Typical Swedish meals were arranged and after one of their meetings, the secretaries were treated to a Sauna bath, which consisted of sitting in a small hut with a wood fire raising the temperature to 100/110 degrees C. and then plunging into the water at 5 degrees C. All voted it an invigorating experience.

I look forward to visiting Sweden again and am sure that in 1967 we shall see many Snipers from Northern Europe entering the Northern European Open Championship to be held at Thorpe Bay (England) in June. — Peter G. Harris
Nat. Secretary for England

PARTIAL SCORES OF 1966 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Country	Points.	Country	Points
(1) Jugoslavia	9290	(4) France	7950
(2) Sweden	8976	(5) Finland	7875
(3) Norway 1	8246	(6) Italy	5558

(The above includes all score information furnished - Ed)