

# Rasmussen Triumphs At European Championship

*Denmark's ace trounces 10-nation fleet*

In the days from the 16th to the 23rd August 1980 Espergærde Yacht-club in Denmark held the 16th European Championship for Snipes.

All the yachtsmen were lodged by members of the small yacht-club – quite an achievement considering there were app. 125 persons, and the club in Espergærde has the same number of members. Saturday, Sunday and half the Monday were reserved for measuring of the 55 dinghies from 10 nations.

Boats were weighed; masts, spars as well as the placing of the centerboard in the dinghies were checked. During the measuring it was found out that some masts were too long and that some of the centerboards did not go vertically down into the centerboard-trunks. All masts and centerboards were altered and approved so that everybody could start the tune-up-race Monday afternoon. The weather had so far been wonderful, warm and sunny and very little wind.

The defending European champion Felix Gancedo of Spain had been prevented from coming, meaning that there were no favourites to this year's EC.

Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. the first race started in app. 8 meters per second (16 knots) of wind. Flemming Rasmussen/Keld Schultz made the best start up by the windward mark and were immediately up in front. Rasmussen/Schultz were so much ahead of the others that at the end they came out winners more than one minute ahead of Per Brødsted, also from Denmark. The second race, which was sailed in app. 8 seconds wind, was signally won by Ralf Casen/Bengt Holmquest, Finland, in front of Flemming Rasmussen/Keld Schultz, Denmark.

Wednesday the wind was very strong with puffs up to 15 seconds (30 knots). The first race was started in a very strong squall which caused several damages on the boats. Among other things the best Spanish boat dropped out of the race with a broken jib halliard. This weather was just what Flemming Rasmussen/Keld Schultz liked.

They reached the marking-buoy as the



*Fleming Rasmussen holds the European Championship trophy aloft as his crew Keld Schultz grins his approval.*

first boat, and then never left this leading position. Flemming Christiansen/Neils Kampmann from Denmark, who had so far been very modest with a 32nd and a 16th place, now also showed their force in windy weather, by coming in as 2nd boat. Strong wind the rest of the day meant that no further races took place on Wednesday.

Thursday, which was meant to be a resting- and spare-day, now had to be used for the missing race. On this day the

wind was very fluctuating and there were strong rain and thunder showers. This race was characterized by rapid changes in the first positions of the field and during an incredibly strong shower, some boats got 25 positions forward and others the same number of positions backwards. In the last cross Per Brødsted led, but on the finishing line he was beaten by Finn and Ivan Hansen, Norway, and Jorge Haenelt from Spain. Ralf Casen, Finland, ended on the 8th place and Flemming



Rasmussen and Schultz show their winning technique as they sail downwind in the European Championship. (PerGothlin photo)

Rasmussen got his worst placing, a 10th place.

On Thursday night boat-builder Erling Olsen and his wife arranged a big barbecue-party for the yachtmen. Big beefs were served together with equally big quantities of wine.

Gale warning all over Denmark meant that the races on Friday were scratched already at 1:00 p.m. as at this time the wind was more than 25 seconds (50 knots).

On Saturday, the last sailing day, there were to be two races in order to be able to deduct the poorest result and achieve a total of 6 sailed races.

Flemming Rasmussen/Keld Schultz had — after the first 4 races — taken such a lead compared to the next 5 boats, Finn Hansen, Norway; Ralf Casen, Finland; Dirck De Bock, Belgium; Jorge Haenelt, Spain and Per Brødsted, Denmark, that all they had to do to secure the championship was to sail safely, avoid disqualifications and all the time be among the first 6 boats. Such as the last race went on, Flemming Rasmussen/Keld Schultz did not even have to participate to be champions.

The European champions, who came from the arranging club Espergærde, were

#### EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP (Top 15 of 55 entries)

Boat	Skipper/Crew	Home	Places	Points	Finish
D23334	Flemming Rasmussen/Keld Schultz	Denmark	1-2-1-10-6-5	24.7	1
L20679	Ralf Casen/Bengt Holmquist	Finland	11-1-3-8-5-2	32.7	2
D22382	Per Brødsted/Jens Sørensen	Denmark	2-8-9-3-9-3	43.4	3
N21688	Fin Hansen/Iver Hansen	Norway	5-11-6-1-3-dnf	44.4	4
E23948	Jorge Haenelt/A. Garcia	Spain	7-3-dnf-2-4-17	52.7	5
	Dirk DeBock/J.P. Kiekens	Belgium	3-4-5-15-7-12	54.7	6
D19817	Flemming Christiansen/N. Kampmann	Denmark	32-16-2-6-16-1	58.7	7
E20862	Jose DeSoto/Lopez	Spain	9-15-7-5-11-4	63.0	8
D22567	Ove Lorentzen/Klaus Fossum	Denmark	20-5-8-11-8-8	69.0	9
L22862	Hakon Bjurström/Laila Bjurstr.	Finland	19-7-12-9-1-dq	71.0	10
E23263	Pablo Zenderera/Pancho Pizzion	Spain		80	11
S22430	Claes Pettersen/Bjørn Laesker	Sweden		86.7	12
L23830	Bill Holmström/Timo Anntila	Finland		87.0	13
L20271	V.P. Rucho/Haimakainen	Finland		91.0	14
D21817	Torben Larsen/M. Østergard	Denmark		102.0	15

#### AGE STATISTICS AND BOAT EQUIPMENT LIST FOR EUROPE'S TOP TEN:

	Country	Boat	Mast	Sail	Age	Helmsman	Crew
1	Denmark	Skipper	Bruder Olsen	North	35	31	Flemming Rasmussen
2	Finland	Skipper	Cobra Olsen	North	33	30	Ralf Casen
3	Denmark	Skipper	Bruder Olsen	Green	39	16	Per Brødsted
4	Norway	Skipper	Bruder Olsen	Ulmann	30	26	Finn Hansen
5	Spain	Proto	Bruder	North	27	18	Jorge Haenelt
6	Belgium	Skipper	Cobra Olsen	North	36	18	Dirk de Bock
7	Denmark	Skipper	Bruder	Carlsen	38	26	Flemming Christiansen
8	Spain	Stratos	Bruder	North	33	21	G. de Soto
9	Denmark	Skipper	Bruder	Carlsen	32	34	Ove Lorentzen
10	Finland	Svante	Jack Holt	Neb	27	22	Hakon Bjurstrom

praised in a worthy manner by first being thrown into the harbour and then — by the 250 persons taking part in the prize-giving — to be elected European Champions 1980. At the same time they have

automatically qualified for the next European championship taking place in Venice in Italy.

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