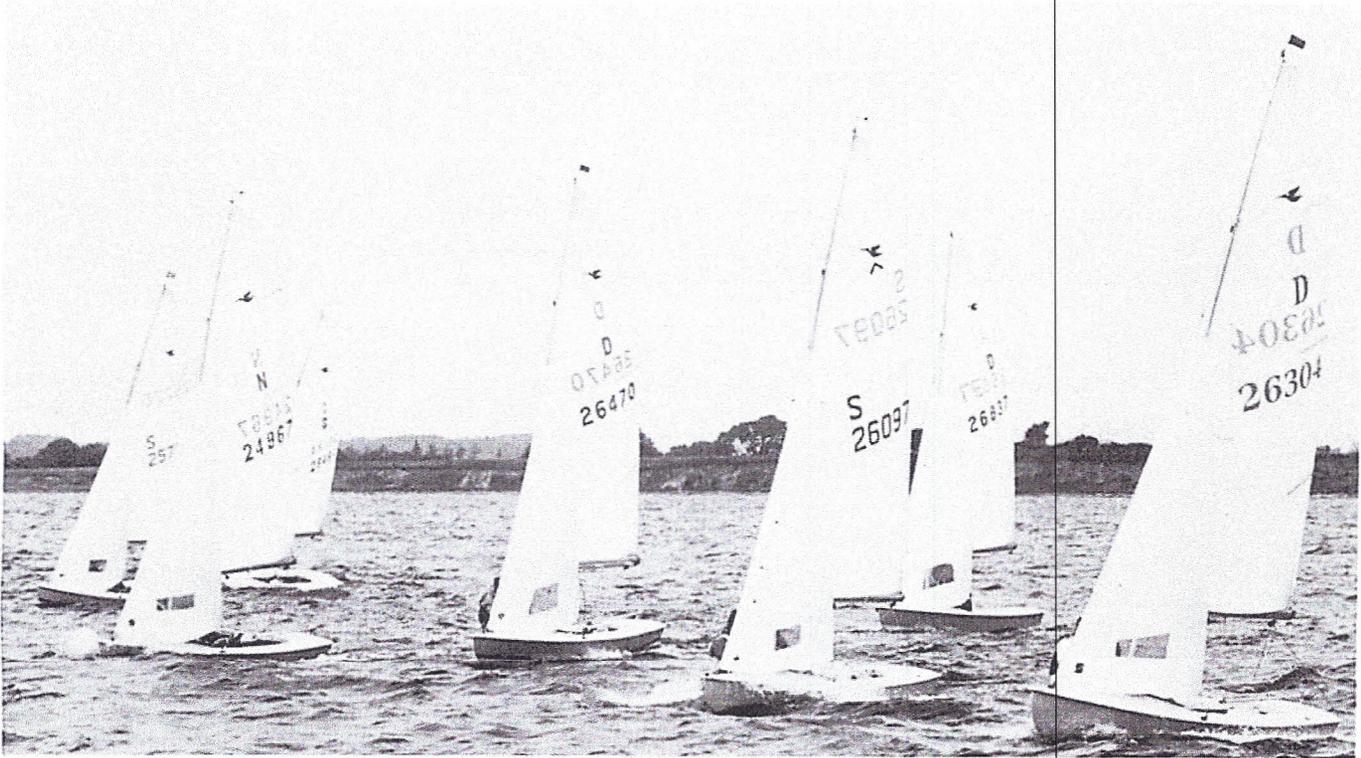


Spanish sailors take four of top five positions in championship held at Juelsminde, Denmark; Jorge Haenelt and Martin Wizner are victors.

THE EUROPEANS



Part of the 58-boat fleet shown bunched at the start of a race. (Tom Hjortlund photo)

Victorious Spanish team at the European Championship. (Ole Nielsen photo)



The 20th European Championships took place in Denmark, to be more exact in Juelsminde, with participation of 58 boats from 10 countries. Before the European Championship there had been tune-up races because the Open Nordic Championship was held at Juelsminde, too.

The four Danish clubs — Horsens Sejlklub, Juellsminde Sejlklub, Kolding Sejlklub, and Skanderborg Sejl- og Motorbadsklub — that had gotten together in this big event and they were able to finish the championship in good and sporting manner.

The boats were measured on Sunday and Monday and on Tuesday, Aug. 17, the first race began.

The two races held on Tuesday were performed under extremely bad conditions with heavy winds from 12-15 m/sec. and in gusts up to 20 m/sec. Therefore, the races were nearly cancelled but the jury decided to carry through as the signal "T" was set to change the race course to three windward and two half wind legs.

In the first race 58 Snipes started and 43 finished. Some were omitted due to capsizing, especially at the reaching mark where some dramatic situations came up. The Spaniards Damian Borrás and Lucia García Romano, and the Finns Claus Carpelan and Freddy Wegelius, were those who first passed the starting line and got a lead at the first tacking mark of approximately six boat lengths down to the following boats who rounded in a close, big lump.

At the tacking mark some dramatic situations took place where a lot of boats capsized. On the half wind sides they really were fast where the possibility of planing/surfing down the comparatively high waves was given. Among others the Spanish crews used these possibilities 100%. Borrás Romano kept the lead and Carpelan/Wegelius finished second, followed by Rita/Andreu.

The second race was started after some delay due to that most of the boats sailed towards the harbour thinking that the first race would be cancelled due to bad weather conditions, but the judge prepared for the second race and the boats that had reached the harbour were told that the race would be finished in spite of the fact that the wind had dropped compared to the first race.

The second race was nearly a copy of the first, with Borrás/Romano first and fellow countrymen Jorge Haenelt/Martin Wizner second, and the Finns Carpelan/Wegelius finishing third. Only 35 boats finished the second race.

The start for the third race had to be postponed as the wind was heavier than the

day before — up to 20-22 m/sec. It was not until mid-noon that the judge assessed that it was now secure to start and at that time wind was about 16 m/sec. and a bit more in the gusts. One judge said that the wind would drop later on.

The Danes, Heinrich and Poul Evers, had a good start and were leading at the first tacking mark closely followed by the many-times double champions Felix Gomez/Juan Fernandez. On the half wind side Felix passed the Danes who had to fight hard to keep Jorge Haenelt/Martin Wizner behind.

At the first tack the winners of the first and second race had also come forward and there was a close finish but the boats mentioned kept their positions to the finish line.

The wind had not dropped as assumed but instead blown heavier. At the start of the fourth race the wind was 16-18 m/sec. and much more in the gusts. The physique of the crews was tested very hard.

The fourth race started at 5 p.m. and the Danes Tommy Bonde/Johan Hansen had the best position at the lee mark, followed by the two Finnish boats Sampo and Risto Valjus, and Hakan and Rikard Bjurström.

There were strong battles in very high seas between the leading boats. The Danes Bonde/Hansen were first to round the first tack mark followed by the Valjus brothers. These two boats had gotten a nice lead down to the following boats. On the first half wind leg the Danes kept to windward and the Finns were falling more to leeward where they took advantage of a couple of heavy gusts that just brought them past the Danes before the reaching mark. The sec-

ond half wind leg was one long planing one for the boats up front. The positions were not changed with Vajus brothers in first and Bonde/Hansen next with a good distance down to the Bjurströms who had to fight hard with three Spanish boats — Larruca/Andreu, Haenelt/Wizer, and Gomez/Fernandez.

On the last half wind leg the Danes Bonde/Hansen succeeded in keeping the boat down during a couple of heavy gusts and planed past the Finns who in the same heavy gusts could not keep up with the Danes. In the same wind, Rita/Andreu had passed the Bjurströms to become third. On the last tack there was a battle between these four boats. The Bjurströms succeeded in passing Rita/Wizner again and they finished third. Bonde/Hansen kept their lead to finish first and Valjus/Valjus came in second.

After having finished the day's races, panic broke out in the Spanish camp as the jury had protested the whole Spanish team as the Spanish helping boats had been too close to the starting line during both third and fourth races and therefore had interfered with the starts. After a prolonged voting, the jury omitted to disqualify the Spanish team in the third and fourth races and the Spaniards got a serious warning.

After the first four races during really bad conditions, the weather changed to sunny with very light winds, about 1-3 m/sec.

The fifth race started in southerly light winds and with oncoming current of 1-1.5 knots. The boats that started to windward apparently were the ones to get the best

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1988 EUROPEAN SNIPE CHAMPIONSHIP
Juelsminde, Denmark, August 15-20, 1988
(Top 25 of 58 Boats)

Boat	Skipper/Crew	Country	Places	Points	Finish
24555	Jorge Haenelt/Martin Wizner	Spain	6-2-3-5-3-5-ret	24	1
24662	Damian Borrás/Lucia Romano	Spain	1-1-4-9-9-4-20	27.5	2
23203	Fernando Rita/Antonio Andreu	Spain	3-7-6-4-2-9-pms	31	3
19981	Felix Gomez/Juan Fernandez	Spain	15-19-1-6-15-7-1	44.5	4
26639	Heinrich Evers/Paul Evers	Denmark	7-4-2-13-29-26-4	56	5
24967	Finn Hansen/Ansgar Danielsen	Norway	31-10-15-18-10-1-3	56.75	6
27009	Birger Jansen/Janett Krefling	Norway	4-ret-12-17-6-22-6	67	7
22382	Per Brodsted/Jacob Erhardi	Denmark	14-11-14-8-26-10-11	68	8
26470	Tommy Bonde/Johan Hansen	Denmark	11-9-17-1-31-14-26	77.75	9
26650	Sampo Valjus/Risto Valjus	Finland	39-28-5-2-18-17-8	78	10
27070	Pedro Espino/Ignacio Roble	Spain	5-5-9-7-23-31-35	80	11
26645	Hakan Bjurström/Rikard Bjurström	Finland	ret-6-13-3-22-11-30	85	12
21903	Jens Sørensen/Gert Sørensen	Denmark	12-24-18-28-7-13-17	91	13
26839	Pedro Melo/Nuno Melo	Portugal	24-dns-16-10-16-19-10	95	14
26823	Antonio Bari/Bruno Bensa	Italy	17-27-30-26-8-8-14	100	15
26840	Paulo Rodrigues/Carlos Jacinto	Portugal	35-ns-10-22-4-16-15	102	16
26626	Carlos Martínez/Cristobal Lopez	Spain	13-ret-dsq-ret-0-3-2	117	17
26482	Gustaf Svensson/Christina Bonrud	Sweden	9-14-7-31-28-32-37	121	18
26501	Piero Anzellotti/Fabio Schaffer	Italy	27-33-36-33-11-15-7	126	19
26825	Aldo Bottagisio/Sergio Morin	Italy	23-15-26-27-19-23-27	133	20
26330	Knut Holmoy/Espen Wessel	Norway	8-31-40-12-24-50-18	133	21
26642	Tom Bjørndahl/Jari Hassel	Finland	16-8-33-24-17-36-dsq	134	22
26931	Erling Messe/Synove Myhre	Norway	ret-23-42-16-5-33-22	141	23
26841	Domingos Borrallho/Nuno Sousa	Portugal	37-35-19-15-27-12-39	149	24
27231	Claus Carpelan/Freddy Wegelius	Finland	2-3-23-40-38-53-40	146	25



Close competition in the European Championship, Denmark. (Tom Hjortlund photo)

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

(Continued from page 7)

start and they went towards land to amend the tide. However, the wind turned during the first tack to SE approximately 25 degrees which changed the positions dramatically so that actually all

boats that had started to windward were cut off from their good position and were sent far back into the field. It was therefore the more unknown crews that were first to round the tacking mark and down in the middle of the field the leading boats had started to indicate themselves. On the following half wind legs the positions changed and before the last tack the South-European boats had worked their way up the field to finish as follows: Carlos Martinez/Christobal Lopez, Fernando Rita/Antonio Andreu, Jorge Haenelt/Martin Wizner.

The sixth was started under similar weather conditions as the fifth race with light SE winds and north running current.

The sixth race was called off, however, as the time limit for the first lap could not be kept. Finn Hansen/Ansgar Davidsen were leading at this time and did only need another 50 meters to round the mark in time. The following boats were Tom Bjorndahl/Jari Hassel, Erling Messe/Synove Myhre, Bonde/Hansen. The first Spanish boat was Rita/Andreu who came in 15th.

After about two hours of waiting the wind stabilized and the sixth race started in light SE winds of 3-4 m/sec.

Finn Hansen/Ansgar Davidsen obviously had gotten the best start and were soon to lead. At the tacking mark the Norwegians led with Giuliano/Claudia Dematte second and Bonde/Hansen third.

The wind did not change and there were a lot of changes in position but Finn

Hansen succeeded in keeping the lead and the Italians kept the second place. In third was Martinez/Lopez and fourth was Borras/Romano.

Before the last race the top five boats were from Spain, followed by two Danish boats. It was clear that the championship would be decided between the three leading boats that were very close on points.

The start of the seventh and final race turned out to be a very nervous affair. The weather was very foggy and with very bad sight, nearly no wind so the start had to be postponed for 2.5 hours. Then a bit of wind came up and the starting began. After two restarts the hard one minute rule was set and after another two restarts the hard five minute rule was set and finally in the fifth attempt the start went off. But shortly after the start the championship was placed as Jorge Haenelt/Martin Wizner were disqualified because of having passed the line after the five minute warning. Fernando Rita/Antonio Andreu were disqualified because of an early start. That meant that Haenelt/Wizner were champions in spite of the fact that Rita/Andreu, who finished the race in third, really would have been champions. The protest by Rita/Andreu was disallowed and they had to accept third overall. Second was Borras/Romano who finished the last race in 20th place — their worst placing. The race was won by Felix Gomez/Juan Fernandez who thus finished fourth overall.

Holger Hansen, SCIRA Denmark

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