

VERY SUPERSTITIOUS!

Spain's Llamas and Cutierrez take Europeans

by Thomas Payne

Spain's Carlos Llamas is no stranger to victory, as for many years he crewed with one of the greatest Snipers of all time, Felix Gancedo. Now, as the skipper, he is continuing the trend, taking the 1992 European Championships after posting a most impressive three-victory string in races three, four and five, slamming the door in the faces of the host nation's favorites, brothers Hakan and Rickard Bjurstrom, in "Turbo Joker."

The event, hosted by Gamlakarleby Segelforening at Kokkola, Finland, saw forty-three teams from ten nations on the line. The club, which was celebrating its 120th anniversary during the event, is on a small island called Mustakari, which means "black reef." The course was just out into the Gulf of Bothnia where light-to-moderate winds and weather conditions ranging from sunny to dismal steady rain were on order for the week. Even in the sun it was necessary to bundle up, as the water temperatures were cold. Also making life interesting was the fact that at these almost-extreme northern longitudes it never really gets dark.

After measurement, a practice race and an opening ceremony highlighted by lots of "gun salutes" (BOOM! Our hosts will use almost any occasion as an excuse to fire the cannon from the upper deck of the clubhouse!) the racing got underway. Race one belonged to the flat-black Turbo Joker, with Norway's Jansen close behind in second and Spain's Gongora and Ramirez in third.

A second in the second race gave the Bjurstroms a solid lead at the end of the first day's action. Jansen and Johnsen were close behind with a second-race fourth.

Llamas and Gutierrez didn't rate too much notice after the first day's racing with their 8-5 finishes, but all eyes were on them as they swept day two's races with a pair of bullets. In Europe it is customary that the day's Daily First prizes are awarded soon after the fleet returns to shore. Your reporter had the honor of awarding the trophies for race three. When it came time for Carlos and Javier to climb onto the first place podium for a winners photo, Carlos begged, "Por favor, no!" So! The man is superstitious! Carlos would not be moved to stand on the podium, apparently fearing the possible cosmic consequences of any claim to victory with only four of seven races completed. As they

loaded up with winners trophies for race four, they again refused to take the podium.

Race five was where the Spaniards made serious notice that they would eventually get to the top of the podium, when THEY were ready. While they posted a third consecutive bullet the Bjurstroms fell to fourteenth, and with only two races remaining it looked as though Llamas was ready to put the seal on the win.

But the Bjurstroms were not out of it, a fact that they clearly demonstrated in race six as they took an easy win over Norway's Christian Dahl and Jannicke Haug. Jansen and Johnsen crossed in third and Llamas and Cutierrez were fourth.

The final race saw Llamas keeping a close eye on the "Joker" as both teams sailed well back in the pack. Out in front it was Antonio Bari and Gianmario Bertanzon of Italy in the new Lillia Snipe taking the win, with Italians Giuliano Dematte and Ilario LaRossa finishing just ahead of Finland's Jaakonsaari and Wikstrom. Spain's Demian Borrás and "Puri" Lluich crossed in sixth, a result that put them into second overall as the Bjurstroms limped home in a drop-race twenty-first, forcing them to "count" their fourteenth in race five, resulting in a fall to third overall. Spain took three of the top four places as Oliver Gongora and Francisco Ramirez threw out a race two DSQ.

1992 SNIPE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP Gamlakarleby Segelforening (One Throw-out)

Finish	Boat	Skipper/Crew	Places	Points
1	E9779	Llamas/Gutierrez	8-5-.75-.75-4-15	19.25
2	E24662	Borrás/Lluich	5-3-2-13-7-8-6	31
3	L26645	Bjurstrom/Bjurstrom	.75-2-8-7-14-.75-21	32.5
4	E24555	Gongora/Ramirez	3-48DSQ-3-4-16-5-9	40
5	N27410	Jansen/Johnsen	2-4-15-3-20-3-22	47
6	N28069	Guttormsen/Guttormsen	12-6-5-6-30-9-13	51
7	L26922	Bjurstrom/Bjurstrom	9-11-11-8-26-6-10	55
8	I28313	Bari/Bertanzon	22-14-4-23-9-13-.75	62.75
9	L28145	Carpelan/Wegelius	7-12-35-10-12-27-4	72
10	N27690	Irgens/Smedal	6-.75-17-2-24-48PMS-24	73.75
11	I26812	Michel/Turazza	10-21-32-5-15-17-11	79
12	N28157	Irgens/Nesse	33-23-6-9-6-20-16	80
13	D28200	Persson/Thomsen	16-8-16-22-8-14-29	84
14	D28201	Persson/Gotfredsen	21-30-9-15-3-16-20	84
15	D26803	Jorgensen/Jorgensen	18-20-14-16-11-12-19	90
16	P26839	de Melo/Lino	19-9-37-11-28-10-14	91
17	N27744	Dahl/Haug	24-22-19-20-4-2-36	91
18	I27131	Dematte/LaRossa	27-13-10-32-10-34-2	94
19	L27231	Jaakonsaari/Wikstrom	34-29-13-36-2-18-3	99
20	P26842	DeQueiroz/Rodriguez	17-19CNF-36-21-5-15-25	102
21	N27136	Heldal/Heldal	4-15-38-26-26-18-11-35	109
22	N27007	Svensden/Gamborg	14-7-21-12-22-48DNF-36	112
23	L28109	Valli/Raty	23-32CNF-7-29-34-23-8	122
24	I28323	Brezich/Dimauro	29-34-27-19-21-21-5	122
25	S28221	Lindsjo/Lindsjo	31-10-30-18-40-7-27	123
26	I26342	Bernardis/Calliari	15-24-33-27-31-31-7	135
27	P27398	Cayolla/Araujo	13-48DSQ-18-24-13-48DNF-28	144
28	I27129	Schaffer/Gorgatto	43DNF-16-28-30-29-24-18	145
29	N27546	Lofterod/Spone	25-17-31-14-35-25-33-180	145
30	D23974	Rasmussen/Hornemann	11-25-25-31-37-26-31	149
31	I27109	Bodino/Pontalti	30-18-20-33-23-39-30	150
32	I28191	Bensa/Spanghero	35-27-26-34-39-22-12	156
33	N27384	Johannesen/Jacobsen	37cnf-26cnf-23-25-27-19-48dnf	157
34	L26650	Valjus/Kari	46cnf-31-12-35-25-32-23	158
35	E27580	Perez/Paron	20-35-22-37-32-30-32	171
36	L26923	Holm/Wikstrom	26-48dnf-29-28-17-28-34	176
37	L28349	Savela/Tuomala	32-28-48dnf-17-36-35-17	177
38	RUS28196	Fomin/Abramova	47cnf-33-cnf-34-38-19-33-26	183
39	K24154	Love/Love	40-38-39-40-33-38-42	228
40	B28156	D'Hoore/Hagenaers	38-36-41-41-43-36-40	232
41	F27948	Boisaubert/Boisaubert	39-37-40-39-41-37-41	233
42	K24152	Mees/Mees	41-40-43-43-38-48dnf-34	239
43	F22444	Blondelle/Monteil	48cnf-39cnf-42-42-42-39-39	240