

2004 European Championship

August 22-28

Larmor Plage, France

54 competitors representing 12 countries across Europe descended on Larmor Plage to contest the European Championship and an automatic entry to the 2005 Worlds.

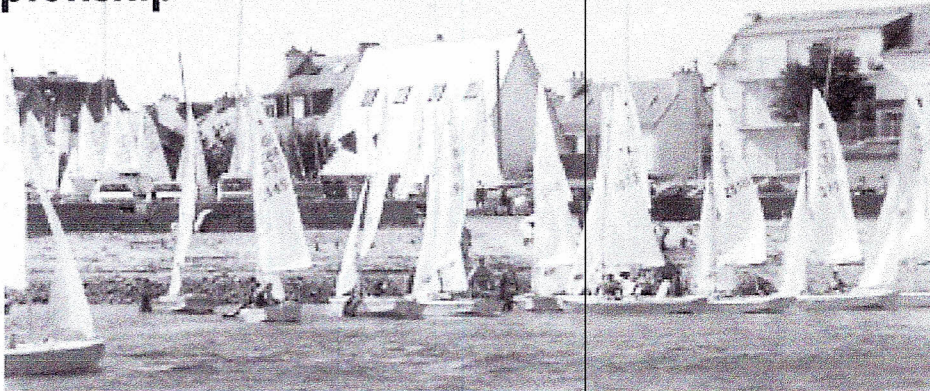
Pepe Perez and daughter Elena Lopez conducted a thorough measurement on the boats and sails and approved all boats to sail. However, the French Open, held just prior

missed a few days due to inclement weather that continued on to the 1st day of the Europeans, causing measurement to be conducted in between intermittent rain showers and blustery conditions. Remnants of the system from Hurricane Charlie that devastated Florida the week prior reformed to bring heavy winds, rain and big seas to cancel the 1st day of the Europeans. Day 2 found the wind subsiding, and with the competitors sent out, 2 races were held in the maximum of Snipe conditions. Big seas and consistent winds of 20-23 knots challenged the fleet with only a few casualties of a broken rudder, jib wire and tired sailors showing in the results column. The Spaniards were thriving in the heavy air with Rayco Tabares/Gonzalo Morales and Jordi Triay/Jose Escudero winning races 1 & 2. Leading the day was Francisco (Paco) Sanchez/Javier Jimenez with a consistent 2-2.

The 2nd day of racing found lighter breezes and generally better conditions for 2 races. Each race had a different wind velocity with the range for the day from 5-15 knots. Sanchez/Jimenez sailed consistently again in all conditions posting a 1-3 for the day. Brothers Enrico & Franco Solerio had a slow start in the days first race, but rallied to win the last race of the day.

The last day of racing brought more wind and 2 races were squeezed in while the rain and wind rallied. Paolo Tomsic/Andrej Mocičnik of Italy port tacked the fleet the 1st race and went on to finish 3rd, while Paco/Javier sailed another consistent race securing their title before the last race was held. But the competition was still tough at the top and the last race found Sanchez/Jimenez winning with Tomsic/Mocičnik close behind and Tabares/Morales in 3rd.

Congratulations must be given not only to all competitors but to the Race Committee and Jury as well. The RC, chaired by Jose LeFouler ran excellent races, adjusting the courses as necessary and calling for the correct courses as the wind dictated. More races would have been run if a day hadn't been lost to extreme weather.



The jury must also be congratulated. Cesar Sans, a former Snipe sailor from Spain drove up to France to help judge and found himself assisting the righting of one of the women's boats the first day, pulling one of the crew into the inflatable due to exhaustion. Cesar (or Fidel as he's known) was happy to sail the boat back and was happy reminiscing at the bar about how much fun Snipes still are to sail, especially with a pretty girl as your crew!

Social

Members of the Societe Nautique de Larmor Plage greeted all competitors and guests like they were family. Club members tended bar, cooked and served the dinner with plenty of French break and wine. The prizegiving had everyone under the tent as rain was falling, but it didn't dampen the spirits or camaraderie of Snipe sailors.

Every country has key people who are their Snipe families or stalwarts. France has Michel and Marion Beaudouin and Sylvie LeBour and Gilles Boisaubert. These two couples must be credited with the growth and enthusiasm for the Snipe Class in France. Their collaboration to make this a successful event showed in every detail and in the friendship and hospitality to everyone present.

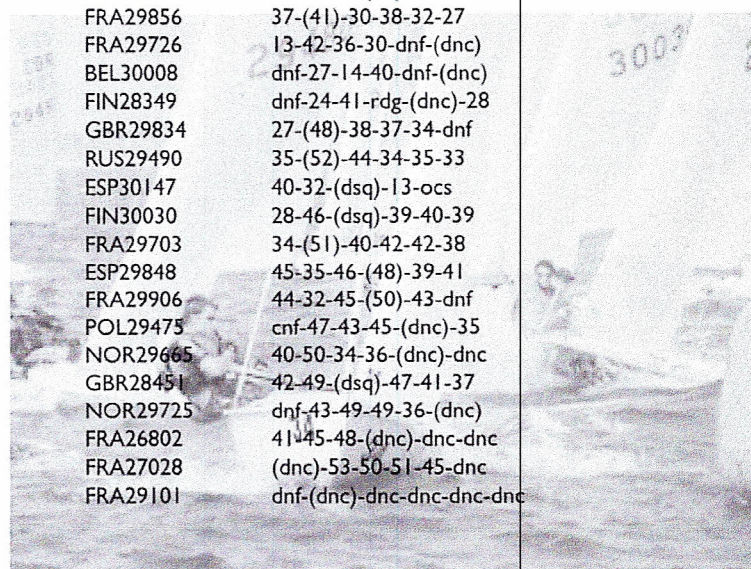
Observations

European Snipe sailors are ready for any weather and conditions that are thrown at them. It was impressive to watch the boat handling and seamanship and lack of equipment failure after the first days racing in gear-busting conditions. It's a test to the quality of Snipe sailors, their equipment and quality of boats being built. The only other observation was that in virtually every race, there were only ever about 5-8 boats on the line with huge line sag. Possibly this was due to the large seas and at times heavy air.



Results

Skipper/Crew	Country/Sail	Finishes	Total
1. Francisco Sanchez/Javier Jimenez	ESP29724	2-2-1-(3)-1-1	6.25
2. Rayco Tabares/Gonzalo Morales	ESP29854	1-(11)-7-2-6-3	18.75
3. Paolo Tomsic/Andrej Mocilnik	ITA30009	5-(12)-12-4-3-2	26
4. Ulrik Sandvig/Steffen Skoonberg	NOR27971	8-5-(31)-8-7-5	33
5. Diogo Talone/Pedro Pintao	POR29958	(17)-4-6-7-12-8	37
6. Francisco Palacio/Alfonso Rodriguez	ESP30060	3-(21)-5-9-19-4	40
7. Enrico/Franco Solerio	ITA29976	7-(29)-17-1-2-17	43.75
8. Antonin NOuette/Guillaume Capit	FRA29839	4-9-15-(24)-16-7	51
9. Joan Marc Rigo/Aldo Diaz	ESP29871	15-10-9-(23)-8-10	52
10. Karl Otto Book/Alexandra Wang	NOR29088	11-7-22-10-5-(31)	55
11. Francisco Ibanez/Juan Merayo	ESP29870	6-18-11-15-9-(ocs)	56
12. Felix Gancedo/Angela Pumagiega	ESP19981	(23)-3-2-22-15-18	60
13. Birger Jansen/Janett Krefting	NOR29940	9-20-8-13-(21)-13	60
14. Pietro Fantoni/Jacopo Ferrari Bravo	ITA30073	(33)-14-20-5-24-6	65
15. Pedro Saura/Cristina Triay	ESP30243	(dnf)-8-27-6-14-19	74
16. Giovanni/Dina Galeotti	BEL29794	18-6-(ocd/dsq)-14-11-29	78
17. Christian Andersen/Rasmus Rozentals	DEN29916	20-26-(39)-17-10-11	84
18. Ola Nygard/Jeanette Schouten	NOR15569	(39)-30-21-11-4-21	87
19. Robert Winther/Martin Persson	SWE29860	12-(31)-29-18-18-15	92
20. Jordi Triay/Jose Escudero	ESP29698	(dnf)-1-33-26-25-9	93.75
21. Alexandro Rodati/Tom Stahl	ITA29869	26-(37)-10-12-23-24	95
22. Martin Bermudez/Carmen Vergara	ESP29984	29-15-3-35-(dnc)-14	96
23. Henrik Jorhov/Ebba Friis	SWE30197	14-22-(28)-25-17-23	101
24. Alain Ferec/Eric Gillot	FRA29437	10-(38)-37-21-22-12	102
25. Eiving Tytlandsvik/Steffen Nysether	NOR29877	19-(44)-16-20-31-16	102
26. Luis Pessanha/Miguel Talone	POR29333	25-(28)-24-27-20-25	121
27. Maxim Kuzmin/Alexander Shirokov	RUS29480	21-17-19-32-38-(40)	127
28. Stefano Longhi/Laura Lautier	ITA29774	43-16-4-(44)-30-34	127
29. Jostein Grodem/Asbjorn Grodem	NOR29421	16-23-18-28-44-(dnc)	129
30. Ola Sjostrand/Mats Gustafsson	SWE27696	30-39-(42)-16-27-22	134
31. Torgeir Titland/Frode Midttun	NOR29981	24-36-(47)-19-29-26	134
32. Dirk DeBock/Frederic DeMesel	BEL29606	22-19-(35)-31-33-30	135
33. Nicolo Paolillo/Simona Cristofori	ITA29195	38-13-26-(41)-26-32	135
34. Fabio Rochelli/Daniele Semec Rochelli	ITA29934	31-33-23-33-(dsq)-20	140
35. Mathieu Therouanne/Morgan Guillou	FRA28540	dnf-25-13-29-37-(dnc)	150
36. Jan Peeters/Ann VanDaele	BEL29177	36-34-25-(46)-28-36	159
37. Jerome Thomas/Guillaume Louveau	FRA29856	37-(41)-30-38-32-27	164
38. David Dufour/Damien Cazala	FRA29726	13-42-36-30-dnf-(dnc)	167
39. Ben/Nadia Van Cauwenbergh	BEL30008	dnf-27-14-40-dnf-(dnc)	173
40. Jussi Savela/Kari Tuomala	FIN28349	dnf-24-41-rdg-(dnc)-28	176
41. Alan Williams/Liz Crouch	GBR29834	27-(48)-38-37-34-dnf	178
42. Alexey Krylov/Eugeny Ryzhikov	RUS29490	35-(52)-44-34-35-33	181
43. Francisco Gonzalez/Francisco Perdomo	ESP30147	40-32-(dsq)-13-ocs	181
44. Kai Saarahelo/Markus Wilkar	FIN30030	28-46-(dsq)-39-40-39	192
45. Rene/Romain LeBour	FRA29703	34-(51)-40-42-42-38	196
46. Margarita Cameselle/Ana Barbeita	ESP29848	45-35-46-(48)-39-41	206
47. Jean-Benoit Coquelle/Pierre-Xavier Boubee	FRA29906	44-32-45-(50)-43-dnf	206
48. Tomek Slodecki/Zbigniew Rakocy	POL29475	cnf-47-43-45-(dnc)-35	208
49. Fabian Bruvik/Fredrik Rosenberg	NOR29665	40-50-34-36-(dnc)-dnc	214
50. Brian/Ian Gregory	GBR28451	42-49-(dsq)-47-41-37	216
51. Kristine Schussler/Cecilie Hurlen	NOR29725	dnf-43-49-49-36-(dnc)	223
52. Tanguy Leglatin/Guillaume Damblans	FRA26802	41-45-48-(dnc)-dnc-dnc	242
53. Gaetan Berthou/Pauline Metzger	FRA27028	(dnc)-53-50-51-45-dnc	253
54. Stephane Bariou/William Wiand	FRA29101	dnf-(dnc)-dnc-dnc-dnc	262



Photos: upper left: beach launching. Lower left: Paco Sanchez checks the line. Upper right: Paolillo/ Cristofori hike off the line. Above: Thomas/Louveau lead a crowd around the mark. All photos by Biehl.

