



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Just now is a very important period in the Europe Class history. Not being Olympic Class anymore allows us to look for changes in profit of all the Class.

I think it is very, very important that the Class moves in the direction the sailors want, and not only in the direction the federations and leaders want. For this reason the Europe Class board had a meeting in March.

We succeeded in creating some ideas for the future. These ideas have been sent to your national Chairmen. They have been asked, together with you sailors, to discuss the results the IECU board recommended, and

to discuss other plans for the future. During the European Championship in Helsinki, there will be a meeting where I expect as many national Chairmen as possible to be present, and the IECU board. They will sit together and find out in what directions you sailors want the IECU board to work.

I am as usual looking forward to visit the Worlds, Europeans and Youth. I hope you all will have a fantastic sailing period.

Best regards.

Jan Abrahamsen, IECU President



*Can Pastilla- Trofeo Princesa Sofia – March 05-
Photo: Jorma Heiskanen*

WORKING HARD IN THE UK

Given the dramatic decision by ISAF regarding the Europe, it was felt by the UK Class Association that we should have a presence at this year's Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace, and show that there is life outside of the Olympics!

With 10,000 people passing through the doors we could not miss this opportunity, and indeed the International Europe Class Union helped by lending us their professional display stand, together with bundles of leaflets and information packs.

I was amazed at the number of people who stopped at the stand to commiserate, and said ISAF's decision was wrong. We had a lot of enquiries from potential new Europe sailors, and saw a lot of old faces who are hopefully going to get their boats back out on the water. The general feeling

was the class will no longer appear elitist (was it really?), and therefore attract more club sailors - we shall see!

During the show a number of the Class Chairman of single-handers got together, and discussed how we could all work more closely. It is early days but class associations are starting to talk and agreeing joint events, but we have already held a joint event with the Splash Class.

The UK has been hit hard by the number of ladies leaving to sail the Laser Radial, but we are trying new ideas, conducted a questionnaire from members about what they want, and are publicising events harder than before. We hope that over time we can rebuild the number of Europe sailors in the UK.

Robert Laurie

UK Class Chairman



Dinghies' show at Alexandra Palace.



*Club San Antonio de la Playa – March 05 –
They've gone out at sea, did you ever see that ?
All photos: Jorma Heiskanen*



TROFEO PRINCESA SOFÍA

– Club Marítimo San Antonio de la Playa

March 05

A total of 96 sailors participated in this 36th edition of the Princesa Sofía Trophy representing 7 countries: ESP, FIN, GBR, GER, NOR, POR and SWE.

31 Women, 40 Men, 9 Women Junior, and 16 Men Junior were there to enjoy the traditional trophy.

Final Results:

1. ESP666	Jesús Rogel Sanchez	47
2. SWE6	Sebastian Östling	52
3. POR208	Hugo Verissimo	62
4. ESP470	Eduardo Zalvide Borrero	69
5. FIN77	Jouni Kokko	74
6. ESP645	Ignacio Calabria	74
7. SWE3485	Emil Cedergardh	90
8. SWE85	Christian Harding	90
9. ESP561	Ivan Moreno	94
10. SWE16	Sandra Sandqvist	97
11. NOR391	Stian Tuv	98
12. ESP384	Marc Paris Gilbert	100
13. POR229	Davide Gonçalves	101
14. SWE5	Tobias Östling	103
15. FIN800	Nina Ramm-Schmidt	114

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The opinions expressed by contributors to the E-News do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

FROM FRANCE

After our Christmas race, most of us took a pause due mainly to the lack of good conditions (too much wind, cold weather...) and a lack of races during the winter period.

The come back to race was, for the majority of us, on March 26th for an inter-regional race held in 4 places around France. The conditions were quite different from one place to another as some of us didn't sail at all while other had too much wind. Then, after a quick come back to serious training for some of us, there was our National Spring Cup held in La Rochelle (place for the sailing part of the Olympic Games if they are in Paris in 2012). From April 17th to 21st, 78 sailors met in difficult conditions. There have been strong winds as well as light winds. No surprisingly, our veteran Peter Van Lear won, followed by two young sailors, Sébastien Scotto and Loic Baizez (Brice's brother). There were some places for the first to qualify the European.

Less than 3 weeks later, it was the turn of the French Senior Championship held on the Maubuisson Lake in the south west of France, near Bordeaux. The conditions were nearly the same as in La Rochelle. There were 25 women and 43 men. It is also to notice that about 15 of our former sailors are now on other Olympic support. They are on 470 (Brice Baizez, Blandine Rouille and Manon Borsi), Tornado (Mathieu Derand and Jean Christophe Gache), Laser Radial (Solène Brain, Sophie de Turckheim, Mathilde Geron and Sarah Steyaert) or Laser (Emmanuel Taine). We can also notice that the Europe dinghy is a very good boat because at the last French Senior Championship, the podium was full of former Europe Sailors (Solène, Mathilde and Sarah) on the Laser Radial dinghy.

Last I would like to invite you to our summer National Cup which will be held in Pareloup (South) from August 13rd to 18th. It is open to everyone wanting to do it and will be preceded by a franco-german training period of one week.

Antoine

FRA 5579 (El Pécador)

GREETINGS FROM FINLAND

When writing this the sailing season has recently started in Finland. We have had a "late" winter with quite a lot of snow, and in the North we still get snow showers. The most eager Europe dinghy sailors have been practising during the spring in Mallorca or in Sweden, but the majority of the Finnish sailors have been out sailing only on home waters for a few weeks. Our first ranking-regatta, the Cottonfield Cup, was held this weekend in Helsinki. On the first day we had a nice sunny day but difficult winds around 4-6 m/s circling 180 degrees during the regatta. On Sunday the Southwesterly wind was blowing strongly, up to 17 m/s in the gusts, from the open sea and creating quite difficult conditions with a water temperature of only +8 degrees. Most sailors were swimming frequently. Only one race was sailed that day. In the final results Sari Multala was 1, Jouni Kokko 2 and Nina Ramm-Schmidt 3. The regatta was not only the first ranking regatta for this season, it was also the first qualifying regatta for the Finnish team to the European Championship and will be followed by two more qualifying regattas during the next few weeks.

Following these qualifying regattas the Finnish Championship will take place in Helsinki June 17-19 only a little more than a week prior to Open Week.

Preparations for the European Championship are going into the final stage, and NJK has been quite busy making sure that everybody will have a fair race and a nice stay in Helsinki. The water temperature will have gone up quite a bit by then, so you don't need to worry about any icebergs in July... We have sent an order for sunshine to the weather gods for the whole period. There will also be lots of activities for the sailors' supporters during the days.

Europe Class Finland wishes you all welcome to Finland, and we look very much forward to see you all in Helsinki from the end of June till July 11 or later.

ECF – Kathe Ramm-Schmidt



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FROM ITALY

After the selection regattas, the Asseuropa in agreement with the Italian Sailing Federation is working to form the national team which will participate abroad and represent Italy.

Out of the 6 scheduled regattas, five have been sailed with a total of 22 races in Napoli, Pesaro (Adriatico), Torbole (Garda), Livorno and Gravedona (Como). The regattas' development and the state of the adverse meteorological conditions made difficult respecting the security norms and run the regatta.

The international events, European and World Championships are always more "impegnativi" due to the expenses that the sailors have to support for the trip charges or to realise the strategy engaged by the Europe Class, specially this year.

Special strategy for the choice of the event which will have to take into account the National Authority's request. The Class image however has priority and has to demonstrate that it is alive and present in each occasion. The constant presence is the best publicity and avoid to let the Class in the shadow of the national sailing activities.

In this line, the Europe Class will participate, this year, to the Italian Championship - Olympic Classes where the Europe Class National Championship will take place and titles for women, men and youth will be granted.

This confrontation with other similar classes in the same course, is a dignified participation and our sailors will have again the possibility to demonstrate on site the technical and athletic qualities of the Europe dinghy.

The Asseuropa has the intention to intensify the activities in Italy and abroad through an important participation as the goal is to be always present and keep the attention of the sailing world, despite the onerous charges. We find it essential to demonstrate the Europe Class vitality, surpassing readily the "incident" of the Olympic status exclusion and taking care of our youngsters, their formation and preparation

In such prospect renewing with training meetings at top level is as well an integral part of these actual and future programs.

Claudio Morana

President ASSEUROPA

FROM LATVIA

Unfortunately I must say that the Europe Class in our country has stopped developing after the 2000 Olympic Games. There are 7 boats (all around 10 years old), all located in Riga and they are used more or less for fun racing. Last season the class was included in the National Championships. No sailors are going out of the country to compete.

The young sailors finishing Optimist Class choose Laser or Laser Radial because the competition in this class is much stronger in our country.

For the time being that's all news.

Zaklina Litauniece



FROM NEW ZEALAND

NZ is divided into two main islands with a strait between them, that costs a couple of hundred dollars to transport boats and trailers across on the ferries, this tends to isolate the islands as far as getting the fleets from both islands sailing together. In the past all the Olympic Europe sailors have centred in the North Island, and in the South Island, for the past 15 years, Peter Andrews has been quietly building up the Europe fleet to his goal of 30 boats which he has now achieved, plus 2.

In the 4 years I have been involved with the class there has been little or no communication between the NZ Owners Assoc in Auckland, and the S.I. fleet, it seems the Olympics have been the focus for Auckland, while in the S.I. none of us are anywhere near that level, so "never the 'twain shall meet".

In the S.I. we have a fleet of 32 boats, of which 7 are women, the main concentration being in the city of Christchurch, also where the Europe Class S.I. Owners Assoc is based. We have newsletters going out every 2 months to all the S.I. owners, we have S.I. championships, Canterbury championships (this is the province Christchurch is in) and line honours and handicap trophies for "Special Events".

This is where we might travel as a fleet to some open regatta somewhere in the S.I. and sail together. At our last AGM (this May) we decided to introduce a special trophy for our women, which they can compete for within all our events. The competition is very strong in the S.I. and we take our racing seriously, we just don't want to get bogged down with the politics and bureaucracy of Olympic and our national yachting administration (YNZ) matters.

At our last AGM we determined to try and get a mini website on the YNZ website to promote the class in the S.I. but this involved becoming an Incorporated Society, and affiliated to YNZ, which we aren't interested in doing, so I have been in contact with the NZ Europe Class to see if we can negotiate part of their website as they have met all the criteria and have a site, but their site is out of date because of the recession of the class in Auckland.

This has led to dialogue between us which has not happened in the 4 years I have been involved, so I am hopeful that may be some good for the class will come out of it, and a closer co-operation between the north and south island fleets. So. It is not all bad news about losing Olympic status.

We are in the winter time here, so it is the time to set up next seasons program of events, and currently we are enquiring with the N.I. fleets to see if we can hold a regatta together next summer, if it happens that will be another first for a long time.

In the S.I. we have had a core of about 3 or 4 sailors who have been active in the class for ages, but recently there has been a lot of new blood joined which has given a new impetus and fresh ideas which has been great, in fact in the last month we have had 4 boats change hands from folks who weren't using them anymore to people who hopefully will, in fact some of us intend sailing through the winter.

One of the bonuses I have found with the Europe here in NZ, is that I can go to any of the local yacht clubs and sail against a lot of different classes and have good racing. Europes seem to be able to hold their own in all conditions with most of the classes of similar type sailing in NZ.

Well, that's what happening over here in NZ, if I can be of any help please let me know.

Regards.

Tom Arthur

S.I. Owners Group secretary.

FROM CROATIA

As all countries, we have the same problem with the Europe Class. Many girls want to sail in Laser R now. But we are trying to keep as many boys and girls in this class and now we have around 20-25 sailors.

We do not have a full 2005 calendar for the Europe Class in Croatia, many regattas are changed and will be changed for our class.

Our sailors will go to the Europeans in Finland and to the Youth Europeans in Norway. We will have the same good trainings in June but I do not know exactly the date. Sailors from Slovenia and Italy will come to this training. If you need information you are welcome, please take contact.

Theo Pizzul

theo.pizzul@ri.htnet.hr

TAKE NOTE

New secretary for the Croatian Europe Class

Theo Pizzul

Theo.pizzul@ri.htnet.hr

2005 CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT TITLE	VENUE
14-16 May	Pfingstbusch Young Young European Sailings	Kiel GER
19-22 May	Polish Yachting Association	Puck POL
18-26 June	Kieler Woche Baltic Sea	Kiel GER
25 June/3 July	Corbeta Patagon	Buenos Aires ARG
29 June/3 July	International European Open Week	Helsinki FIN
30 June/3 July	International Austrian Lakes Week	Neusiedl AUT
2-6 July	Flanders Youth Regatta	Nieuwpoort BEL
2-11 July	68 Warnemunder Woche Baltic Sea	Warnemunder GER
4-11 July	European Championship	Helsinki FIN
8-13 July	Balaton Sailing Week	Balatonfured HUN
15-17 July	M SR Europa (The Open Slovak Championship)	Liptovska SVK
8-14 August	IECU Youth Championship	Toensberg NOR
10-15 August	International Sailing Week	Chojnice POL
26-31 August	International China Open Week	Rizhao CHN
1-9 September	World Championship	Rizhao CHN
9-11 September	Ika Rabac Cup 2005	Rabac CRO
29 Oct/6 Nov.	Semana de Buenos Aires	Buenos Aires ARG
25-27 Noviembre	Cup Opatija 2005	Opatija CRO
7-11 December	St Nicholas Race	CRO
26-29 December	Régate Internationale de Noël	Toulon FRA
26-30 December	Christmas Race	Palamos ESP

The Europe Class European Championships and Open Week 2005 in Helsinki, Finland

The Europe Class European Championships and Open Week will be organized in Helsinki, Finland between June 29th and July 11th 2005. The Championships will be organised by the yacht club Nyländska Jaktklubben (NJK) in co-operation with Europe Class Finland ry.

NJK has a vast experience in organizing large scale sailing events. In 2003 it hosted the Womens Match Race European Championships and in 2002 the 8mR-class World Championships.

NJK has two home harbours in Helsinki, Blekholmen and Björkholmen. The Europe Class European Championships and Open Week will be held at Björkholmen, which is located in the western part of Drumsö island, less than five kilometers from the city center. With berths for 210 boats Björkholmen is one of the busiest sailing centres in the Helsinki region. Several world class sailors have confirmed their participation in the Europe Class European Championships, among others Siren Sundby who won the Olympic Gold Medal in Athens in 2004 and Sari Multala who came 2nd in the Europe Class World Championships in 2004. For Sari Multala the European Championships in July will be her last in this class before she switches over to Laser Radial.

The Europe Class European Championships will start on July 4th and the Prize giving and closing ceremony will take place on July 11th at NJK's Blekholmen harbour.

The Open Week is held during the week prior to the Championships (29th June – 3rd July). All daily races will be held on the waters SW of Helsinki, at race areas south of Melkö island.

NJK is proud to host the Europe Class European Championships 2005 and the organizing committee is looking forward to welcoming international sailors to beautiful Helsinki.

Additional information:

www.njk.fi/ecec2005

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Kathe Ramm-Schmidt, Europe Class Finland ry, phone: +358 40 7341473

SOLIDARITY PROGRAM

– EASIER TO START A EUROPE FLEET

Back to our Solidarity Program (installed in 2003) and which aim is to support countries willing to start a Europe fleet, the program offers a free boat for each five bought. These countries (an association, club or other “non for profit” organisation) interested in starting a Europe fleet can apply to IECU Secretariat info@europeclass.org.

The IECU is supported by various approved boatbuilders, masts, booms, sails and foil makers to realise this project.

BUT NOW, if it is a problem for you to find 5 fellows to sail the Europe with you we made it easier:

BUY 3, GET THE 4TH AT HALF PRICE.

Hope this new option will help you!

THE EUROPE IN COUNTRIES IN PROGRESS

The number of sailors is reduced to few in most of the undeveloped countries and nonexistent in some of them. I start sailing in the Europe Class in 1997, as soon as I stopped sailing Optimist. When I was sailing in Optimist, around 94-95 the national economy was good for the Argentinians as the money change was \$1=1US\$ and to day is at \$2,9=1US\$ and now to import merchandize results a lot more complicated. We had at this time a big fleet and in a local championship we could see sailing together 40 Europes. Nowadays in that type of championship we hardly get to 15 boats. The economic situation has been the major reason for this decline.

My country and most of the Latin America countries suffered big changes to enter in the world market. This caused us important “economical sacrifices” as we were not prepared to compete with developed countries. These facts and others made that a great number of people got unemployed and people who were sailing before nowadays cannot do it. As a result a lot of people had to abandon the sport and equally our class has been affected.

In Brazil there is an important Europe fleet (I do not know how is doing the fleet right now), Chile, Uruguay and Ecuador have some few boats, but very little activity.

Nevertheless, I am convinced that people of these countries will sail the Europe for its outstanding performances, more or less depending on the local economy.

Best regards from Argentina.

Alfredo Bafico Trench

Presidente AACIE

FROM AUSTRIA

The Austrian Europe Class Association just had the first regatta in Austria at lake Neusiedl. Wind was strong. For some of our new sailors a little bit too strong.. It is good to have the first regattas to check the Austrian scene. As far as I can tell now the fleet decreased a little bit, but not as much as I thought in the beginning of the season. There are a lot of young sailors that switched from Optimist and the boys enjoy to be back in the Top 3 again. In May and June we have got 2 regattas. One of these is the Omega Sailing Week at Lake Traunsee. To make some advertisement Ellen Mac Arthur will be guest of this event ! For the pricegiving all competitors have the chance to win an Omega-clock ! And we hope that there will come a lot of Europe sailors from abroad ! For more information look at www.traunseewoche.at

The Austrian Europe Class Association wishes all of you a great season and I hope to meet some of you one time !

Blue Sky Racing Days results, Greetings Alice Fritsch

YC Breivenbrunn

- | | |
|--------|------------------|
| 1. 131 | Martin Gisch |
| 2. 124 | Alice Fritsch |
| 3. 150 | Lukas Hobinger |
| 4. 113 | Franz Steiner |
| 5. 107 | Benjamin Politor |

Spring Cup Regatta

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| 1. AUT124 | Alice Fritsch |
| 2. AUT17 | Peter Styblo |
| 3. AUT150 | Lukas Hobinger |
| 4. AUT131 | Martin Gisch |
| 5. GER1422 | Christoph Tittes |

WinnerBoats Europe Class Results



- **World Champion 2004 Women – Siren Sundby.**
- **World Champion 2004 Men – Christopher Gundersen**
- **Gold, Silver and Bronze OLYMPIC GAMES**

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WINNER WORLD CHAMPION '04

WOMEN - Siren Sundby (NOR) is the World Champion 2004 with a Winner.

Top 14 used a Winner.

1. Siren Sundby	NOR	WINNER
2. Sari Multala	FIN	WINNER
3. Petra Niemann	GER	WINNER
4. Lenka Smidova	CZE	WINNER
5. Sarah Blanck	AUS	WINNER

MEN - Christopher Gundersen (NOR) is the World Champion 2004 with a Winner.

1. Christopher Gundersen	NOR	WINNER
2. Arvid Claesson	SWE	
3. Michael Risor	DEN	WINNER
4. Toke Bjørnshave	DEN	WINNER
5. Jean Christophe Gache	FRA	WINNER

OLYMPIC GAMES ATHENS '04

Siren Sundby (NOR) is Gold Medalist

25 of 25 used a Winner.

1. Siren Sundby	NOR	WINNER
2. Lenka Smidova	CZE	WINNER
3. Signe Livbjerg	DEN	WINNER
4. Sarah Blanck	AUS	WINNER
5. Sari Multala	FIN	WINNER
6. Serena Amato	ARG	WINNER
7. Shen Xiaoying	CHN	WINNER
8. Sarah Macky	NZL	WINNER
9. Virginia Kravarioti	GRE	WINNER
10. Petra Niemann	GER	WINNER

Princess Sofia Trophy 2004 – Mallorca – ESP MEN'S FLEET

1. Christopher Gundersen	NOR	WINNER
2. Sebastian Ostling	SWE	
3. Manuel Jimenez	ESP	WINNER
4. Jesus Rogel	ESP	WINNER
5. Emmanuel Taine	FRA	WINNER

Princess Sofia Trophy 2004 – Mallorca – ESP WOMEN'S FLEET

1. Siren Sundby	NOR	WINNER
2. Sarah Blanck	AUS	WINNER
3. Meg Gaillard	USA	
4. Min Dezillie	BEL	WINNER
5. Christiane de Nijs	GER	WINNER

Eurolymp 2004– SOF – Hyeres - FRA

1. Siren Sundby	NOR	WINNER
2. Sari Multala	FIN	WINNER
3. Tania Calles	MEX	WINNER
4. Sarah Macky	NZL	WINNER
5. Lu Chun Feng	CHN	WINNER

Eurolymp 2004– SPA REGATTA - NED

1. Siren Sundby	NOR	WINNER
2. Blandine Rouille	FRA	WINNER
3. Petra Niemann	GER	WINNER
4. Lenka Smidova	CZE	WINNER
5. Sari Multala	FIN	WINNER

Eurolymp 2004– KIEL WEEK - GER

1. Tatiana Drozdovskaya	BLR	WINNER
2. Petra Niemann	GER	WINNER
3. Sarah Blanck	AUS	WINNER
4. Teja Cerne	SLO	WINNER
5. Wiebke Schröder	GER	WINNER

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