

SWITZERLAND WINS EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

RAYMOND FRAGNIERE IS THE NEW CHAMPION — WORLD CHAMPION MARIO CAPIO OF ITALY TAKES SECOND

The European Snipe Championships were held at Plymouth, England, during the first week of August. There were 10 countries competing.

With the bad weather all have experienced this year, we hardly expected to sail the full program on schedule. But with the winds holding good for the entire week and the excellent organization of the Port of Plymouth Sailing Association, the Championship series turned out to be one of the best for many years.

Half of the boats were measured on the Saturday, but on Sunday morning a force 8 gale blew, preventing all activity except sail measurement. No sails exceeded the new girth measurement, but one suit from France appeared to be under weight but were allowed, as we had no means of checking.

The afternoon cleared and the remaining boats were measured. The Swiss boat 10576, which was at Cascais for the World Championships of 1957, was deemed out of order by the measurement committee. The curve of the stem was too blunt and after much discussion, was allowed to participate providing it was reshaped. A local boatbuilder took off a sliver about 12" long by 1/2" thick, but even this did not bring it into line. The position of the measurers was weakened by the fact that the same boat was allowed to participate in the World Championships. Measuring was made easy by the use of a jig presented to the Snipe Association by Mr. J. McKinlay, Vice-President of the Maldon Yacht Club.

The opening ceremony was performed by the Lord Mayor of Plymouth and the national flags were broken at mast heads to a fanfare by the band of the Royal Marines, Plymouth.

Luckily, by afternoon the wind was down to force 4 to 5 and a triangular course was set. A good start saw Norway, helmed by Nils Monstad, gain a lead over Dany Graux of Belgium, and he maintained it throughout the race. England and Scotland both retired after hitting a mark on the first round. Sven Rantil from Denmark came up to 2nd place, beating R. Fragniere of Switzerland. The first 7 boats finished within 2 1/2 minutes. Mario Capio, the Italian World Champion fo the Snipe Class, did well to finish 5th, as he was still suffering from air sickness.

France (B. Achard) protested that Norway had fouled a mark, but the two judges closely watching from a stake boat testified that this was not so.

On Tuesday morning, the first windward-leeward race got off to a slow start owing to a wind shift from S to SW, which fortunately held there. Bernard Achard (France) went away on his own and gained a good lead over the entire fleet. Denmark and Norway made headway, whilst Dr. Clark Penman (England) fell away. Result: France 1st, Denmark 2nd, Norway 3rd.

Wednesday, two races were scheduled and as the wind held due South, we got the remaining two windward-leeward races off. The start of the morning race was good with Italy first over the line, a position she maintained. The fleet split with Italy, Switzerland, and Spain (The Marquis de Povar) choosing the cliffs and Norway and Denmark the breakwater. The cliff paid off. Spain retired with a broken shroud lashing. Result was Italy 1st, Sweden 2nd, and Belgium 3rd. That afternoon the wind dropped to force 3 and Mario Capio, finding his form, came in half a minute ahead of Achard of France with Spain close behind in 3rd place. This made the points position most interesting, with several in the running at this time.

Scotland, participating for the first time in Snipe Championships, was represented by Mr. J. Mackay who was not at home in a borrowed boat and was well down the fleet.

The wind lessened as the week progressed and this favoured the Swiss boat, who obtained two 1sts. In the last race, Italy had to get a 5th or better to win the event, but was early at the starting line and turned towards the committee boat. Dany Graux (Belgium) had a perfect start but masked Mario's view and so he did not see his recall number until a few seconds later. This cost him the championship, as he finished 6th. Mario put in a protest, saying that Dany must have been over as well, but the protest was not upheld. Subsequent viewing of a film taken of that start proves the judges right. Spain finished 2nd and Den-



OFFICIALS AT THE REGATTA. The Lord Mayor of Plymouth (left) speaks with Dr. Clark Penman, British National Champion, while H. J. Crispin, National Secretary for England, (center) listens in. — Photo by Western Morning News

mark 3rd in that race.

Dr. Clark Penman never struck his form and as someone remarked, being the perfect host, he allowed all but Scotland to beat him.

The entertainment side was very good with cocktail parties and a reception by the Lord Mayor, the Royal Corinthian Y. C. , the Royal South Western Y. C. , and the Royal Western Y. C. of England, the latter at the home of Lord Morley. A tea party was given by the Lord Mayor at the home of Sir Francis Drake, Buckland Abbey.

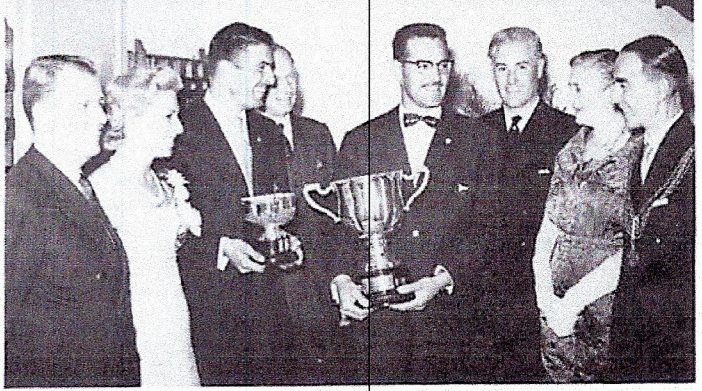
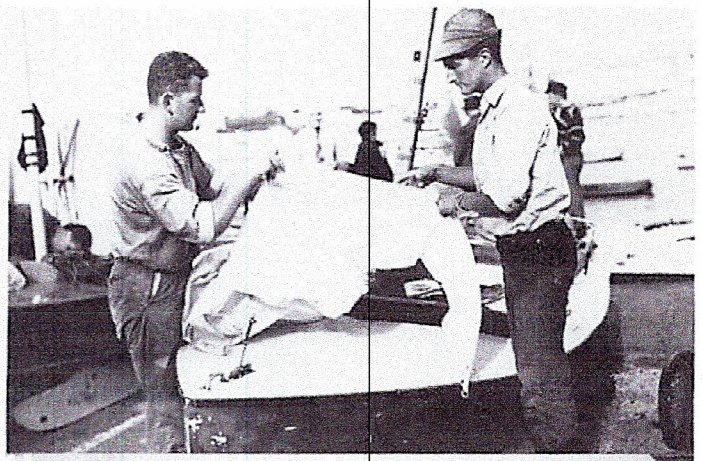
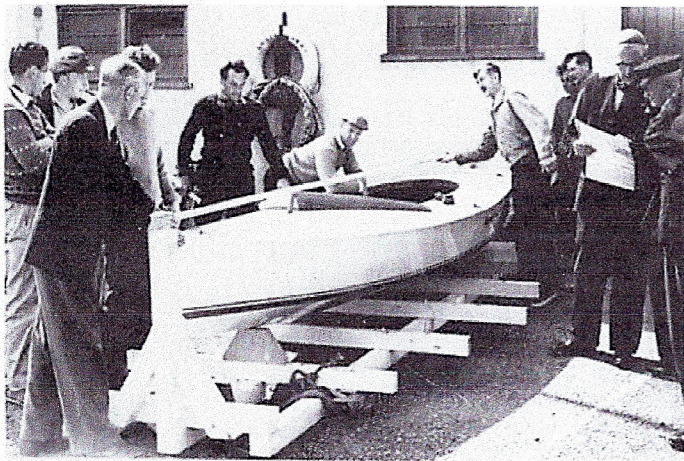
The prize giving dinner and dance was held in the Officers Mess at the R. A. F Mount Batten by kind permission of the A. O. C. The Vice-Commodore of the P. P. S. A. expressed the hope that Plymouth might see a Snipe World Championship there one day.

The 6 Snipe Fleets of England and numerous friends raised the funds for the Championship and without their help, this most successful regatta would not have been possible. Competitors testified to the warmth of welcome shown by the people of Plymouth, which makes for the success of all International sporting events. ---- H. J. Crispin, National Secretary

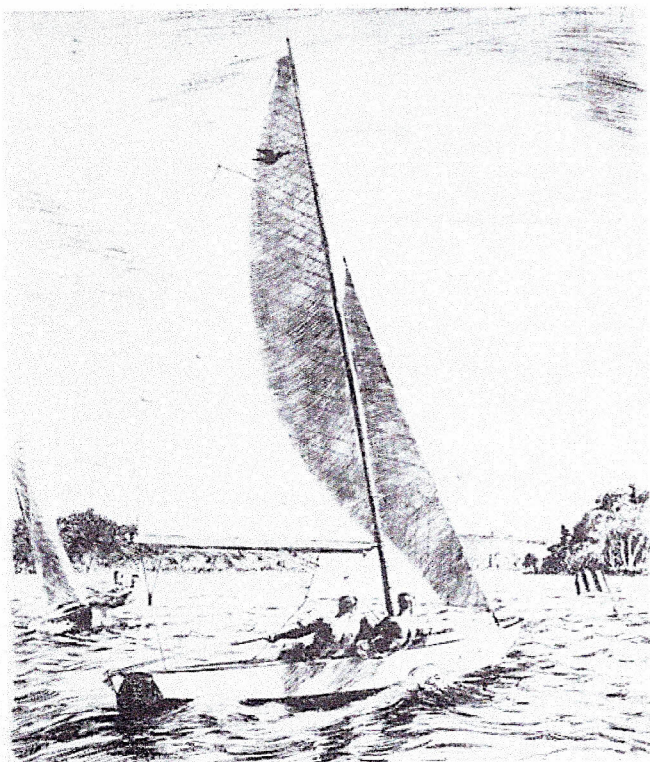
1958 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

BOAT	SKIPPER	CREW	COUNTRY	PTS.	Fin.
10576	R. Fragniere	R. Glutz	Switzerland	7309	1
11156	Mario Capio	L. Podesta	Italy	7242	2
10036	Svend Rantil	B. Keutil	Denmark	6938	3
10921	B. Achard	P. Gramond	France	6875	4
10623	Nils Monstad	H. Grav	Norway	6780	5
11542	Marquis de Povar	L. Triay	Spain	6723	6
8226	B. Jameson	F. Ahman	Sweden	6711	7
9518	Dany Graux	F. Michaels	Belgium	6563	8
8855	A. C. Penman	E. Hine	England	5254	9
10326	J. Mackay	H. Sutherland	Scotland	4931	10

6 races sailed — 5 counted

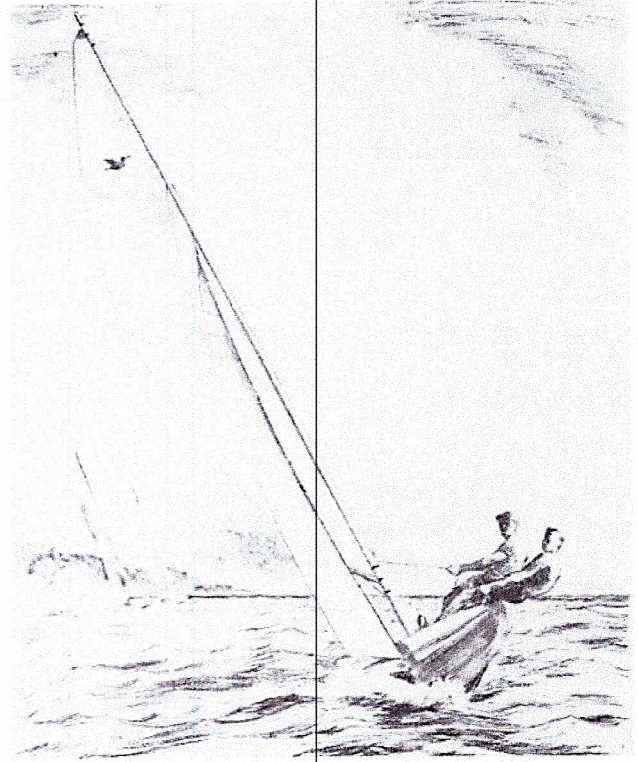


MORE PICTURES FROM PLYMOUTH. (upper left) The Swiss boat, the winner, is measured in; (upper right) Harald Gray and Nils Monstad of Norway rig their boat; (lower left) Start of the first race; (lower right) The new Champions, Raymond Fragniere and Rene Glutz from Switzerland, display their trophies to admiring regatta officials. —Western Morning News.



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