

Project for development of the Italian Snipe Class

“DB SAILING ACADEMY”



1- Brief history of the Snipe class

“I want to underline how important the Snipe Class was for the revival of the sailing activity during the post-war period; several young people found in the sailing competition the strength to get over the sacrifices and terrible memories of the dark years of the Second World War” (2003 – Sergio Gaibisso, then-President of the Italian Sailing Federation)

The then-President Sergio Gaibisso wanted to honour with those words the 70 years of the Snipe class and of the snipe boat which its creator, Bill Crosby, in 1931 thought as a mean for getting the sailing affordable to everyone, easy to transport and still very skilly.

These peculiarities allowed the quick development of the snipe all over the world and in 1958 the Snipe Class became International and recognized by the IYRU (International Yacht Racing Union).

Today the class is run by the “Board of governors” of the SCIRA International (Snipe Class International Racing Association) .

Recently the Star Sailors League has increased its interest in the Snipe Class taking over the managing of a World Snipe Ranking, proving the great link between these two classes of dinghies.

In many countries the snipe is considered as THE skilly boat , being the preferred dinghy of younger (up to 21years) and less young sailors, until to get to “Legend” (over 80).

A strong women participation is a characteristic of the Class, both as crew and helmswomen.

Most may not know that many of the big names of the International and Olimpic Sailing sailed (or still sail) in snipe too.

Let's name some of them only:

- Paul Elvstrom, DANIMARCA (Olimpic Gold Medalist in various Olimpic Games, Snipe World Champion)
- Torben Grael, BRASILE (multi Medalist at various Olimpic Games, Luna Rossa tactician, Volvo Ocean Race 2008/2009 winner, multi Snipe World Champion)
- Santiago Lange, ARGENTINA (Gold Medalist at Rio 2016 Olimpic Games, multi Star and Snipe World Champion)

- Augie Diaz, USA (Star World Champion, multi Snipe World Champion)
- Dodo Gorla, ITALIA (Star World Champion and Star Bronze Medalist at Olympic Games)
- Mauro Pelaschiar, ITALIA (Olimpic Games and skipper of Azzurra at 1983 America's Cup)
- Andrea Trani, ITALIA (Olimpic Games and 470 World Champion)
- George Szabo, USA (Star World Champion)
- Anna Tunnicliffe, USA (Gold Medalist at Pechino 2008 Olimpic Games, ISAF Rolex World sailor of the Year 2009 and 2011, Laser Radial World Champion)
- Angela Pumariega, SPAGNA (Gold Medalist at London 2012 Olimpic Games)
- Gintare Volungeviciute, LITUANIA (Silver Medalist at Pechino 2008 Olimpic Games, Laser Radial World Champion)
- Guillermo Parada, ARGENTINO (Olimpic partecipant at Seul 1988 Olimpic Games, TP52 Audi Azzurra skipper)
- Mac Agnese, USA (Snipe World Champion, crewing the AC75 American Magic at 2021 America's Cup)



2- In the World

With almost 32000 boats produced since the beginning, the Snipe Class is very popular in :

- Europe (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweeden, Switzerland and UK)
- North and Central America (Bahamas, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, USA)
- South America (Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Perù, Uruguay)
- Asia (Japan, Lituania)

The largest International fleet in terms of paying members and active boats is the Japanese with 13 regional fleets, 1021 members and 569 boats, followed by USA (43 fleets, 436 members, 297 boats), Spain (33 fleets, 484 members , 283 boats), Brasil (19 fleets, 297 members, 183 boats) and Italy (17 fleets, 274 members, 125 boats).

3- International Events and participation

The International Snipe Class organizes very important event at scheduled frequency: some of them every other year such as the World Championships (Junior and Overall) and the Emishpere Championships (European and Western and Orient Hemisphere), some of them yearly such as the South European Championships and different International Trophies, as well ad the single country Nationals and or trophies

The first World Overall Championship ever was held in USA in 1934, while Italy hosted it in Rimini in 1995 and in Talamone in 2015.

The average number of boats participating to International events is between 40 and 120, while the World Overall Championship is limited by rules to 80 boats maximum.



4- In Italy

The Snipe Class is very popular in the North and in the Center of Italy, less in the South.

Two large fleets are based on the territory where DB Marine runs its activity of boatbuilder: the Monfalcone fleet with 10 boats and 14 members, 4 of which Juniors and the Sistiana fleet which groups up all the sailing clubs of the Trieste gulf, with 12 boats and 28 members, 4 of which Juniors.

The first fleet of the Trieste gulf (1938) belonged to the sailing club named S.V.O.C. (Società Velica Oscar Cosulich) which organised in the years 6 National Championships. Among its members there are many very known names of the Italian Snipe Class both in terms of personal achievements (like National multi-champions such as Sergio Morin, Sergio Michel, Giovanni Turazza, Enrico Michel – the last also European vice Champion, Master World vice Champion and 7° at the 2009 World Championship -, the Master World Champions Fabio Rocchelli and Daniela Semec, and the champions Sarah Barbarossa, Antonia Contin, Barbara Bonini, Ondina Zago and Barbara Giacometti), as well as in terms of importance for the life of the Italian and International Snipe Class (Daniela Semec present Italian Secretary, Enrico Michel, owner of DB Marine, boatbuilder of the **DBR1** World Champions snipes – and Sergio Michel writer of the book “The life of the snipe in Italy” – 2004, *Alberto Perdida edition*).

During the last years, nevertheless, we faced a check on Italian Snipe Class members growth:

2018 **277 members 40 of which junior - 128 boats**

2019 **281 members 32 of which junior - 125 boats**

2020 **229 members 27 of which junior - 109 boats**



This is also visible when the local fleets numbers are taken into consideration: out of 28 boats which were used to compete in the Nationals, today only 15 or so still continue attending the events.

It is our opinion that the cause for these slowdown does not rely on a missing generational turnover only, but also on the lack of considered projects aimed to develop and improve the teams' performances, no matter their level, with the result that the less performing crews being left behind, shown a progressive disaffection in sailing and competition.

Trying to make a stop to all this, we developped the idea of **"DB Sailing Academy"** with the objective to make the Italian Snipe Class grow again, starting from a location and fleets closer to us and choosing SVOC as our ideal partner both for its ideal logistic situation and for being ever since a club deeply tied to Snipe.



5- "DB SAILING ACADEMY"

The **DB Sailing Academy's** dream starts from the connection of two ideas of two existing although very different realities: the VR46 Academy of Valentino Rossi and the T10 Sailing Valencia (T10 Sailing) of Josè Luis Maldonado and Laura Morata.

5.1- VR46 Riders Academy of Valentino Rossi

What links two very different sports such as motorbike and sailing?

Very easy to say: the competitive spirit, the will to win, the passion, the search for the perfect movement and above all the wish to have fun.

Valentino Rossi succeeded in taking all this in his Academy which since 2014 is keeping on producing champions and very talented riders.

*“The VR46 Riders Academy set itself the goal to form the future pilots giving them the opportunity to take advantage of the skill and experience of Super Champions like Valentino Rossi (and not only) in a organized space where they can train (**and have fun**) through specif trainings and competitions to let each talent explode. “*

#VR46TRIBE

5.2- T10 Sailing di Josè Luis Maldonado e Laura Morata

The T10 Sailing is a brend new company whose founders were deeply involved in the large development of the Snipe Class in Valencia.

Starting from scratch, with the fundamental support of the Real Club de Valencia and of boatbuilders like us (we put up to 5 boats in Valencia at their disposal), they organized various meetings, events like the “Winter Circuit”, open trainings, catching the interest of experienced, less experienced and beginners sailors.

Here some of their astonishing results:

- **Boats:** starting from 3 snipes in 2017, today the Valencia fleet counts 47 snipes
- **Events:** the Club hosted many important events which did not take place in Valencia since years, such as the Master of Spain, European Championships, Gran Trofeo de Valencia.
- **Champions:** they took part to the sailing birth and growing of Juniors and Seniors which became Champions (Spanish Junior male and female champions and Female Overall Champions as well as best crew of the Spanish circuit); many of the big names of the International Snipe family started coming to join the Valencia events and trainings participating to the Circuit organized at the Club

They made the Snipe slogan “**Serious Sailing Serious Fun**” become real and concrete by giving a very easy offer which included:

- Easy and efficient logistic
- Affordable costs for managing the boats at the club and in case of transports

- An upgraded charter fleet at the disposal of anyone who was interested in trying the boat
- Logistic in the water with rubber boats and marks at disposal for trainings
- Weekly trainings with or without trainer
- A meeting point for all snipe sailors with parties and fun



5.3 DB SAILING ACADEMY's goal and approach

The **DB Sailing Academy**' goal is to support the improvement of the Snipe Class in Italy both in terms of number of active boats as well as in terms of level of skill and performance of single crews aiming to continue the tradition of competitiveness of the Italian Class also in International events.

Our offer is directed to all experienced, less experienced or beginners crews coming from all the Italian territory. However any crew coming from abroad is highly welcomed. The more we are the better!



The project includes:

- **monthly** planned **meetings** for custom-made trainings in the water and ashore with specific goals for single events to come, such as Italian Championship, European Championship, South European, Italian Master etc
- **1 or 2 DB-R1 ready to race** at the disposal of any crew which has no boat (free of charge for the days of training only); in case of multiple requests DB Marine keeps the right to decide the priority
- **Rubber boat** and **marks** for training on the water
- **Video** recording during the training on the water for immediate discussion ashore
- **Delimited area** ashore at SVOC for boats and trailers free of charge
- **Coaching** in the water and ashore – coach Enrico Michel (possible future participation of International Champions)
- **Targeted contributions** on specif subjects not only on pure sailing such as
 - ✓ regatta rules (with members of International Juries)
 - ✓ technical and tactical in regatta (with Enrico Michel and/or other International high level sailors)
 - ✓ how to present a protest and discuss it to an International Jury
 - ✓ comparison of performance and differences between materials, accessories and fittings
 - ✓ fit out and tuning of the boat
 - ✓ measurement rules notions
 - ✓ the skipper role
 - ✓ the crew role
 - ✓ nutrition: what and how to eat before, after and during a regatta (with a nutritionist – first session included, the following on request on payment)
 - ✓ specific physical training before and after a regata (with personal trainer – first session included, the following on request on payment)

For the first year **DB Marine sponsors the project**, asking a small monthly contribution only per each boat.

DB Marine will be supported by some partners such as :

- **Società Velica Oscar Cosulich**, Monfalcone: ashore logistic, rubber boats and marks, dedicated area for boats and trailers parking
- **BodyLab of Mario Bertolini**, Trieste: food advices and personal training
- **SCIRA Italia**: promotion and support

Any Italian or foreign crew is welcome no matter their level of skillness.

Sailors coming from other classes of all ages (Junior over 16 only) can join us with or without their own boat and /or partner.

Anyone needing accomodation can contact us and we will help them in finding th best solution.

Starting day is set for 27th feb 2021 unless further notice.

In case of interest please contact us at our mail address info@dbmarine.it.

All activities are subject to the Anti-Covid restrictions as per law terms and rules.

Buon vento!



Trieste, 10/02/2021

DB Marine sas