



# INTERNATIONAL 5.5 CLASS

## Newsletter

May 2007

Dear 5.5 sailors !

Hope you all had a nice winter despite the mild temperatures.

### **Torbole: up to expectations**

For the most active 5.5 members, the season started off in Torbole on lake Garda. The spot is known for its predominant thermic breezes but this year the April ones were particularly strong and the twelve contestants faced winds far above 20 knots without much training...

It was like sailing in a washing machine said Jürg Menzi and admitted having difficulties keeping his boat under the chute as she was balloted by the waves. Hans-Peter Schmid transformed the cockpit of his boat into a swimming pool and Bernard Haissly thought he was last when he went crashing across Félix Bibus's boat, fortunately nobody got hurt. In the seventh and final race, the experimented crew of Blade Runner SUI-214 with world champion Christian Wahl at the helm managed to keep their 5.5 on track to a clear win over Jürg Menzi.

### **Winners from downunder**

Meanwhile, down under, the Australians were completing their racing season and two crews are looking forward to race the Scandinavian Gold Cup and the worlds as Paladin AUS-52 from S.Mashall won the Australian Gold Cup and Dave de Coster won the Australian championship with three wins out of seven events with Baragoola AUS\_26 a classic B. Chance design from 1968.

### **7 or 8 boats with the Finnish fleet**

From Finland, Anders Nordman reports: "There is very little to report right now except that Jussi Gullichsen is waiting for his brand new 5.5 which he should be delivered within the next weeks.

We had a 'Season kick off' meeting and discussed the forthcoming ranking races. It seems that we will be able to activate about 7 to 8 yachts this summer".

### **The Neds are on the move again**

From the Netherlands, Linda Rijkuijter wrote: "Topaze has a new owner who will race with her regularly, so Classics be aware !

The Hamerhaai is changing her keel again, we are excited to see what it is going to be this time...

5 or 6 Dutch boats are going for Hanko, and we also expect a big crowd for San Remo.

Our other main event this year will be the "Kaagweek" a family race week in July."

### **Lots of new boats**

Lots of new constructions will make their first appearance this year again:

Philippe Kolly has built himself the SUI-218 named Dune, she is the latest version from Seb Schmidt's 'drawing board', she will soon be followed by her sister-ship with a natural wood colored hull for French Class President Christian Hauvette. During the first races held in Morges and in Rolle, Dune showed a good potential and Philippe will surely and quickly improve the way he handles her.

As already mentioned earlier, Gullichsen's new 5.5 is about to be launched from Wilke's in Leissigen where Bruno Marazzi is having his new Ali Baba also built but with the former keel which he preferred...

In England, the new Silver Fox for Bahamians Symonette and Vlassov is in construction under the supervision of Mark Covell.

### **Saving 5.5s or is it love at first sight?**

Many classic boats are being currently restored in Germany and it seems Kaspar Stubenrauch is doing a great job promoting the Class over there.



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In France Ronan Daniel will be launching Alibi 2 on May 17<sup>th</sup>, he deserve some special congratulations for saving this boat.

### **Keeping in contact with the Swedish fleet**

From Sweden Bjorn Kleman wrote “ As for the 5,5 here in Sweden, during the last years I have tried to collect information on the boats that are still in the country. All boats registered after 1960 in Sweden have been accounted for, but as I guess you know many of them have been sold to other countries. So far the list contains 15 boats still here; some in good shape, others in need of substantial restoration work. All of the existing boats are Classics.

I strongly doubt that any of the owners are interested in racing on an international level, but I think it is good for the class in Sweden to have some contact with the outside world.”

### **Pasta & Pizza**

Things are getting prepared for the Worlds (and the other events), Class president Hans Nadorp and secretary Linda Rijkuijter paid a visit to the San Remo Yacht club. The complete program, the Notice of Race and other information will soon be made available by the racing committee and published on the 5.5 Class website.

### **A tribute to Bobby Symonette**

Also looking at 2008 and Nassau where the Bahamian are looking forward to welcome the 5.5 fleet for the Gold Cup, the Duke of Edimburgh race and the worlds. This will surely boost the 5.5 fleet over there and the organizing committee is already at work to make it a great event.

### **News from the US 5.5** (by Joe Gelsomino)

“Here is an update from the United States on US-52 Little Sister, Barjne Aas – 1963. We have been working on replacing what will end up being close to 85% of the frames and we

dropped the ballast keel last week so that we could relaminate the wooden keel.

Also, I would like to organize the (non-Columbia) 5.5 sailors in the US and Canada, please post my name and email address ( usa\_5point5@yahoo.com ) to have anyone contact me that is interested in formally organizing/re-establishing the class in North America. As well as putting together a group for the 2008 worlds.”

### **What’s new on the web**

The International 5.5 website will soon have a new link to a live archive system allowing each of you to show your 5.5 and related information all this thanks to Sébastien Schmidt, naval architect and head of our technical committee.

By the way the 5.5 website will be celebrating its decade of existence next year, and if you feel like creating a new design feel free to make a proposal !

Your truly,

Ambroise Johnson , 5.5 information officer, webmaster and active 5.5 racing sailor...

### **5.5 Committee**

President: Hans Nadorp  
Secretary: Linda Rijkuijter  
Treasurer: Mark Dangel  
Head of Tech. Com. Sébastien Schmidt

### **Country representative:**

SUI: Hans-Peter Schmid  
FRA: Christian Hauvette  
NOR: Petter Fjeld  
FIN: Anders Nordman  
USA: Joe Gelsomino  
GER: Kaspar Stubenrauch  
ITA: Giorgio Suzanna  
AUT: Edi Berndt  
AUS: Colin Ryan



# INTERNATIONAL 55 CLASS Newsletter

BAH: Craig Symonette  
NED: Frank van Monsjou

## Coming events

- June 6-10  
Swiss Championship – Ascona
- June 28 – July 1<sup>st</sup>  
Hanko Race week – Norway
- July 6 – 8  
Austrian Open – Wolfgangsee

[HTTP://www.5.5class.org](http://www.5.5class.org)

Ps: other news or pictures always welcome !