

# XXIV SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

by Nelson Schmitt

The twenty-fourth South American Championship was held from the 26th of March to the 2nd of April, 1978, at the Yacht Club Santo Amaro in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This club is located 20 km. from the heart of Sao Paulo on Guarapiranga Lake, a man-made reservoir created in the early 1900's.

All visiting crews stayed in the dormitories of the club and received a warm and hearty welcome. There were six crews from Chile, four from Argentina, two from Uruguay, and one from Peru. The top six of the Brazilian Championship had qualified for this championship. The Chileans sent their boats by truck across the Andes, Argentina trailed two boats, and the rest of the crews borrowed fiberglass hulls locally. All boats arrived O.K., but we were told that Argentine Mario Abinzano's boat had passed him on a down-hill, going at 80 km/hr! It just kept going in a straight line (very good hull!) and stopped by itself at the bottom of the hill, no harm done. Abinzano hitched it up again to his pick-up and was one of the first to arrive in Sao Paulo!

Another early arrival was Isidoro Melero from Chile. He and Abinzano quickly set up their boats and were off sailing, the reason being that the Brazilian Championship was being run on the same course as they would have for the South Americans the coming week. Those wind shifts were soon learned as they hovered around the Brazilian fleet!

With all boats "dry-sailed" the measurement committee, headed by Wolfgang Auerbsch, did a thorough and precise job. Centerboard angle measurements had a lot of crews either chipping away at centerboard boxes or mixing epoxy for wooden chocks.

The first warm-up race, with 19 boats participating, was on March 28th and won by Homero Maria Came from Uruguay, Rufino Melero from Chile was second.

## FIRST RACE

With a 2 p.m. start, it was warm and sunny with light winds. George Rider from Brazil led at the windward mark, followed by Isidoro Melero, Chile, and Luiz Lebreiro; Brazil. Spinnakers flew and Lebreiro passed high on the reach and overtook them both. Going to windward, Lebreiro kept his head, but Mario Buckup, who had had a bad start, was on Lebreiro's "heels", followed by Isidoro and George Rider. These positions remained the same except at the last windward leg to the finish, when the wind dropped. Lebreiro crossed first, Rider second, and Alberto Gonzalez from Chile, who had been running in sixth got a big wind shift at the finish and crossed third.

## SECOND RACE

At 10:30 the second race was underway, again with light winds from the east. Claudio Kunze led at the first mark, followed by Luiz Lebreiro and Manuel Gonzalez. From then on it turned into a drifting match, positions changing with any

little puff. Lebreiro pulled away 200 meters, but Abramowitz and Robert Buckup were moving up. At the last windward mark, Abramowitz pulled away and won, Robert Buckup was second and Claudio Kunze got a crazy wind shift and crossed the line in third, with his chute up.

## THIRD RACE

Starting with medium wind (force 3 from the south), Mario Buckup led at the first mark with Abramowitz and Isidoro Melero following. With the two leaders fighting for better positions on the run, Melero passed them both. Positions didn't change much on the other legs, but the first seven were getting bunched up. At the last gybe buoy, eight boats rounded together. Who got the worst of it was Javier Pascuchi from Argentina. During the gybe he was covered and his boom gybed again and caused him to have three stitches on his eyebrow. The last windward leg was a spectator's delight: seven boats were neck to neck. Manuel Gonzalez passed four boats by going up the middle of the course, and won. Claudio Kunze and Isidoro Melero also went up the middle and finished second and third.

## FOURTH RACE

A good northeastern wind blew at 10:15 for the start. The stiff 18 m.p.h. wind was now blowing and Mario Buckup rounded the buoy first, followed by Lebreiro and Alberto Gonzalez. Positions changed on the spinnaker leg and Abramowitz, Robert Buckup and Javier Pascuchi moved up close to the leaders. Positions changed on the second windward leg with Mario Buckup, Lebreiro and Abramowitz rounding in that order. Mario kept his lead and won, Robert passed Lebreiro at the finish line, Abramowitz was fourth, George Rider fifth, and Pascuchi, with a taped up eye, ran his best race with a sixth place.

## FIFTH RACE

Things were getting tense. The Race Committee needed two starts to get the race underway. The six Brazilian boats were practically tied with each other. With one throw-out, Mario and Lebreiro each had 10 points, Kunze, Abramowitz and Rider eleven points each, and Robert Buckup twelve points! The other close contenders were Manuel Gonzalez with nineteen and Pascuchi with twenty-five.

After the first recall, the fifth race was started at 10:25 on April 1. Manuel Gonzalez took the lead, Jose Bareda Moller was second and Kunze third. Mario Buckup passed both of them on the spinnaker leg and was second at the next windward mark, with Gonzalez in front of him and Kunze right on his transom. Kunze and Mario had quite a duel on the next run and Gonzalez pulled away. Gonzalez won his second race. Kunze clipped Mario on the last leg and they finished second and third, respectively.

## SIXTH RACE

After a picnic lunch on shore, the sixth and last race was started at 2 p.m. With a 20 m.p.h. wind and a bit of a chop, again two starts were necessary. At this point Mario and Kunze were tied at 13 points and Robert had 14 points.

Mario led the first two rounds with Manuel Gonzalez hot on his transom. Robert, Abramowitz and Rider were having their own little race. It began to get gusty on the last reach and Gonzalez' spinnaker split in half. The spectator fleet stared aghast as his boat went from planing speed to a wallow. As the spinnaker shreds were being recoiled, Robert and Abramowitz passed him and Gonzalez finished fourth. Mario went on to win, followed by Robert, Abramowitz, Gonzalez, Rider and Mario Isola.

At the awards banquet, International Vice-President, Denis Clemence presented the South American Championship trophy to Mario Buckup and his crew - wife Thelma and Joaquim Feneberg. This was the third time Mario had won it. In second was Robert Buckup and third, Claudio Kunze.



*Brazilian Champion Mario Buckup  
on his way to taking the South  
Americans*

# XXIV SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Final Pos.	Boat #	Skipper & Crew	Race Finishes						Points	Country
			1	2	3	4	5	6		
1	7495	Mario Buckup Telma M. Buckup, Joaquim Feneberg	4	(5)	5	1	3	1	14	Brasil
2	11708	Robert Buckup Hans G. Flesch, Karldieter Wolf	(8)	2	8	2	4	2	18	Brasil
3	12414	Claudio Kunze Renato Kaufmann, Juan Metzen	6	3	2	7	2	(21)	20	Brasil
4	11706	Claudio Abramowitz Manfred V. Schafhausen, Manfred Kaufmann	(12)	1	6	4	7	3	21	Brasil
5	12812	George Rider Wilton Swan, Robert Swan	2	(13)	4	5	5	5	21	Brasil
6	8233	Luis Lebreiro Alzir Faria Jr., Ronaldo Senfft	1	6	(7)	3	6	7	23	Brasil
7	11011	Manuel Gonzalez Felipe Galves, Cristian Barahona	(13)	7	1	11	1	4	24	Chile
8	8411	Javier Pascuchi Maria Pascuchi, Sergio Dobrila	9	9	(21)	6	9	15	48	Argentina
9	11022	Alberto Gonzalez Alvaro Parro, Ramon Sallas	3	12	(21)	12	11	10	48	Chile
10	12652	Pablo Gallyas Fernando Gallyas, Cristian Pollet	11	(15)	12	8	12	8	51	Chile
11	12681	Isidoro Melero Antonio Benvenuto, Mike Jackson	7	(18)	3	10	16	16	52	Chile
12	12513	Rufino Melero Javier Melero, Fernando del Sol	10	14	10	9	(17)	9	52	Chile
13	11043	Mario Isola Luis Hector Schenone, Luis Buglioni	15	10	9	(16)	14	6	54	Argentina
14	8414	Homero M. Came Jorge Paster, Raul Came	(18)	17	11	13	8	12	61	Uruguay
15	12824	Mario Abinzano Marcelo Abinzano, Guillermo Fox	5	4	(21)	15	18	20	62	Argentina
16	12519	Jose Bareda Moller Fernando Barreda, Luis Brice	16	11	(21)	17	10	13	67	Peru
17	12659	Jose Maria Blanco Daniel Collet, Anibal Gatti	14	16	13	(19)	13	11	67	Argentina
18	12682	Luis Hermann S. Luis H. Gonzalez, Cristian H. Sanhueza	17	8	(21)	14	15	14	68	Chile
19	2812	Homero R. Came Luis E. Pintos, Jorge A. Bottino	(19)	19	14	18	19	17	87	Uruguay

19 Boats, 20 DNF/DNS, 21 DSQ ( ) Throw-out Race

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Above are just a few of the Fleet Members who are planning and working to make 1979 the year of the *best-ever* Lightning Championships. They are all looking forward to seeing you competing or spectating at CYC next summer. The exact dates and other particulars will be published in future *Flashes*.

***Happy Sailing To Everyone For 1979!***



Phaleron Bay — Athens.

Photo Credit — Elias Anagmostopoulos

# 26TH EUROPEAN LIGHTNING CHAMPIONSHIP 1978

HELD AT PHALERON BAY AND HOSTED  
BY THE YACHT CLUB OF GREECE AND  
PARTHENON LIGHTNING FLEET NO 286

by George Andreadis

Once again it was Greece's turn to hold the Lightning Championship. It was very fortunate to have so many Lightning friends from all over Europe to participate in the event, but above all it was our immense honour and pleasure to have the President of the International Lightning Class Association and his excellent crew Gregg Fisher and Patti Burton as well as our wonderful Executive Secretary, Helen Limbaugh and her husband Jay Limbaugh, Honorary Commodore of the Class with us.

The racing took place under excellent conditions and with varying wind strengths.

#### First Race:

The wind was out of the North with a relatively calm sea. At the first mark Urs Wyler of Switzerland lead but was

subsequently passed by George Andreadis on the first reaching leg. At the end it was George Andreadis in first place with Urs Wyler second, Alfie Georgiadis from Greece third and President Schneider in fourth place.

#### Second Race:

The wind was from the same direction but somewhat lighter and very shifty. At the finish line George Andreadis was first just passing President Schneider with our good friend Claude Lambelet of Switzerland in third place.

#### Third Race:

This time the wind came from the South, was light to medium with small chop. At the end George Andreadis was first for the third consecutive race, his brother Alexander Andreadis second and Urs Wyler of Switzerland third.



President John Schneider presenting winners trophies to Costas Liberakis, crew, and George Andreadis, skipper.

Photo Credit — Elias Anagmostopoulos

**Fourth Race:**

Wind again from the South but lighter than the day before. Especially in the last leg there were holes all over the place. Finally Luigi Merola of Italy got the winning gun with Christopher Luthy of Switzerland second and George Andreadis third.

**Fifth Race:**

Wind out of the South and light, Nando de Amicis of Italy captured first place with 1977 European Champion Jean-Claude Dupasquier second and Christopher Luthy a close third.

**Sixth Race:**

Again wind from the South light to medium. Nando de Amicis of Italy finished first with George Andreadis a very close second and Claude Lambelet third.

The overall standings for the first three places were as follows:

1.	George Andreadis	Greece	8
2.	Christopher Luthy	Switzerland	20
3.	John Schneider	USA	24

The prize giving ceremony was a very pleasant occasion for everyone and was held at the Club House of the Yacht Club of Greece. Everyone had a very good time and made a date for the next European Championship to be held in 1979 in Finland.

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# 1978 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Final Pos.	Country & Boat #	Skipper & Crew	1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts.
1	GR 11459	George Andreadis George Perrakis, Coastas Liberakis	1	1	1	3	(4)	2	8
2	Z 13099	Christoph Luthy Dominique Luthy, Stanley Starkey	7	(16)	4	2	3	4	20
3	US 13177	John Schneider Greg Fisher, Patty Burton	4	2	7	4	(10)	7	24
4	Z 13067	J. Claude DuPasquier Yann DuPasquier, Joel Von Allmen	(9)	7	5	7	2	5	26
5	I 13264	Luigi Merola Mario Lo Sardo, Franco Lo Sardo	(13)	6	8	1	7	6	28
6	Z 12860	Claude Lambelet Annika Lambelet, Laurent Lambelet	(15)	3	9	5	11	3	31
7	Z 12637	Urs Wyler Rudolf Wyler, Peter Wyler	2	(27)	3	15	5	8	33
8	GR 12857	Themis Lempessopoulos Stel. Grammenopoulos, P. Filipakos	6	4	6	10	(14)	11	37
9	Z 10898	Schmid Hanspeter Andreas Hofer, Beat Buchschacher	5	5	(12)	11	9	9	39
10	I 13068	Mandode Amicis Giovanni Rizzieri, Alberto De Amicis	17	11	(21)	14	1	1	44
11	Z 12571	Rudolf Herzog Thomas Bossard, Edgar Merz	10	13	10	(17)	6	15	54
12	L 12909	Hartti Nisonen Ilpo Nisonen, Antero Uitto	(27)	9	14	16	8	10	57
13	GR 11634	Theoderos Georgiadis N. Kalafatis, I. Alevropoulos	3	8	11	9	(27)	27	58
14	I 12905	Robert Grucitti Giuseppe Pecorella, Giuseppe Maggio	11	12	15	8	(18)	12	58
15	Z 13074	Hanszurg Zollinger Jurg Weilemann, Rene Meyer	14	(17)	13	12	12	14	65
16	GR 9447	Alexandros Andreadis St. Psarakis, Nikolaos Dimou	8	(27)	2	6	27	27	70
17	L 12483	Timo Patosuo Mervi Patosuo, Juhani Haila	12	10	(20)	18	15	17	72
18	Z 12572	Gilbert Despland Jacky Roulet, Gil DeCoulon	(20)	18	16	13	13	13	73
19	I 12087	Pietro Marino Andrea Aloia, Giuseppe Clemente	16	14	18	(21)	20	18	86
20	GR 11633	George Matzagriotis Evangel Samothrakis, George Gritsis	19	19	17	(23)	16	19	90
21	L 12761	Antti Tapola Jukka Paakkonen, Pertti Nyman	(27)	15	22	14	19	20	95
22	I 12059	Fabio Nicchiarelli Maria Nicchiarelli, St. Rossi	(27)	20	23	24	17	16	100
23	GR 10037	Anastasios Deligiorgis Stelios Deligiorgis, Nikol Pesketzis	18	21	19	22	(27)	27	107
24	GR 10754	Alexandros Onassiades Anast. Boudouris, Maria Onassiadou	(27)	22	25	27	21	21	116
25	I 13061	Mauro Salvetti Cian Carlo Chielli, Marco Rufini	(27)	27	24	20	27	27	125
26	GR 11761	Dimitrios Georgalas Mina Mitrakou, Daina Beits	(27)	27	27	27	27	27	135

26 Boats 27 DNF/DNS

( ) Throw-out race

GR — Greece Z — Switzerland US — United States  
I — Italy L — Finland





*Yacht Harbour — Piraeus, Greece*

Photo Credit — Elias Anagnostopoulos



**I.L.C.A. Official Pocket Patch**

Red Lightning Flash on white circle embossed on navy wool background. I.L.C.A. and laurel leaves hand embroidered in bullion. Size approximately 4" x 4 1/4".

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