

# EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

By Marcello Attina

We began to prepare to win the European Championship for the second time with training starting in January '87. It was hard to believe we were the European Champions; we were going to work hard to maintain that title. We were on the boat every weekend starting in February. We sometimes participated in the I.O.R. Class regattas with the famous Bortolotti (Azzurias skipper) who promised to send us the sails from Milford, CT. Our training consisted of improving either gybing techniques or the regulation of the boat, always hoping to find a better speed to win.

As the day for the Championship arrived, our emotions increased, our faces appeared tired and frightened, and we were worried about boat speed. We had arrived at Numana four days before the regatta in order to study the difficulties of the place. The time was spent in measuring or practicing in the bad weather conditions.

During the days preceding the regatta, four sets of sails had arrived from the states. We soon realized that our set was not there. The competition was starting in two days and it appeared the same had happened as in Greece when we sailed our championship with year old sails. The first day was too windy and we couldn't race and therefore were uncertain how speedy our sails would be. Certainly it wasn't the right way to start the European Championship.

In the first race, the wind was 10 met/sec. At the start, the leeward boats were *Meltemi* and *Lilybrytan*, but soon we found ourselves behind them. We tacked and stayed in the middle of the racing area because of the irregularity of the wind. We soon realized that everything depended on chance. At the end of the first leg, *White Cloud* was first, we were fifth. At the gybe mark we were third and *White Cloud* was still first. In the middle of the downwind leg, the wind shifted 130 degrees. We became thirteenth together with *White Cloud*. We were very discouraged. The last leg upwind became a reaching leg and we decided to hoist the spinnaker. Fabio was worried because our boom always touched the surface of the water, but on the contrary, Antonio was excited as he wanted us to work better. We managed to pass the other boats and we finished third soon after *Meltemi*.

We started near the committee boat in the second race and were fifth at the first mark. *Meltemi* was first followed by *Lilybrytan*. During a battle between *Meltemi* and *Lilybrytan* on the second upwind leg, we improved our position to third. We began a real battle with Vitaggio and we passed him and finished second behind *Meltemi*, *Lilybrytan* was third and to our surprise *Santa-Fiamma* was fourth.

The wind was 5 to 6 met/sec. The Race Committee decided that the start of race three would be after the second race. We were really excited and our boat felt our excitement. At the first mark we were first and continued to improve our lead. We managed to finish without any problems. Our dear friend, Ferrari, skipper of *White Cloud* was second followed by Wyler, Perret, Rustichelli, and Vitaggio respectively.

The starting line was established and race four was to start at 11:00 A.M. At 8:00 A.M., we were out on the boat to check and make sure everything was working well. The Italian Flag was flying the day before and I silently asked myself which flag would be flying today? My crew and I decided then that the Italian Flag would never go down! We were really concentrating and started in the backwind of *Meltemi*, but soon we managed to pass him. After some tacks we went to the right of the race area with Wyler, while Vitaggio and the others went towards the left. Near the mark we had a battle with *Goumas* who was really speedy. Meanwhile Shizzazaole became first and we were second followed by *Goumas*. After a good beat, we were first. The finish was really surprising! Wyler was second, Perret third, DeRegis fourth and Vitaggio fifth. Our comment was that the Italian Flag will fly again!

For race five we were out on the boat very early and we controlled everything. Some dark clouds were menacing the



European Champions Marcello Attina and crew first at the weather mark in *Wanter III* followed closely by *Meltemi*.

regatta. This race would have been the deciding one! We had to beat only Wyler. I was frightened to have all the Swiss against me, and I think Wyler had the same fear. We started in the middle of the line windward to Wyler. After some tacks we were first again and we went on covering *Meltemi*. At the mark we were still first, *Lilybrytan* was second, *White Cloud* was third while *Meltemi* was sixth. After the second leg the sky was dark and the wind had picked up. The last leg began and *Milan* went on the left side while *Lilybrytan*, who was covering us, went the right side with *Meltemi* behind us. We continued to improve our position and arrived at the finish first, with Vitaggio second, Schmid third, and Wyler fourth. Fabio, with his eyes full of tears cried "We have finally won! We are the champions!!"

Wyler and Vitaggio were still fighting for second place in the sixth race. We had a bad start and were about thirteenth. At the mark we were sixth, Vitaggio first, Wyler second and the famous *Lambelet* was finally among the best. At the beginning of the second leg we were still sixth, but after a lot of tacks we were second. Our hearts were full of joy when we were first again for the fourth time. Incredible! Vitaggio was second and Wyler third, who became the European runner-up.

What a wonderful championship! The "Cizeolo Nautico Numana" was fantastic. Everything was organized in the best way, the spaghetti parties and the wonderful trophies for the winners. A special thanks to the Magic Gianni Pelligrino, the builder of our boat, to our friend Nando DeAmicis who helped to build the Italian District, and to our sailmaker who sent us such magnificent sails, which came late, but arrived first!

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# 35th European Championship 1987

## Numana, Italy

Fin. Pos.	Boat #	Country	Skipper & Crew	Races						Pts.
				1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	13481	Italy	Marcello Attina, Antonio Rallo, Fabio Spano	(3)	2	1	1	1	1	6
2	13790	Switzerland	Urs Wyler, Martin Stauffer, Beat Gasser	2	1	3	2	(4)	3	11
3	13706	Italy	Pasquale Vitaggio, Giuseppe Alagna, Giovanni Pulizzi	1	3	(6)	5	2	2	13
4	13414	Italy	Francesco Ferrari, Claudio Bombana, Fabio Giuliani	5	8	2	(12)	6	5	26
5	12951	Switzerland	Jacques Perret, Thomas Huber, Hans Hausammann	(25)	4	4	3	15	8	34
6	13692	Switzerland	Hans Peter Schmid, Andreas Hofer, Taeschler	4	6	13	8	3	(14)	34
7	13455	Italy	Sergio Rustichelli, Sauro Scarpocchi, Paolo Barbaei	7	7	5	(11)	8	9	36
8	13802	Greece	Constantinos Tsantilis, Bournatzis, Jacob Kikianis	18	(26)	7	7	5	4	41
9	13401	Italy	Gaetano Pellizzaro, Fabio Falcini, Massimo Giondi	6	11	10	14	7	(25)	48
10	13841	Italy	Franco DeRegis, Camillo Angeli, Granara	12	(26)	16	4	9	12	53
11	13715	Italy	Francesco Cruciani, Giovanni Battisti, Fulvio Cruciani	10	9	(21)	16	11	11	57
12	13065	Italy	Guido Armeni, Alpino Moroni, Fausto Gherlantini	17	15	9	6	(17)	10	57
13	13346	Italy	Bruno Roccheggiani, Renzo Bozzi, Massimiliano Bozzi	8	10	19	13	10	(26)	60
14	14093	Finland	Chris Winter, Maata, Petri Cederlof	25	(26)	8	10	12	7	62
15	14091	Finland	Terho Aromaa, J. Aromaa, Kimmo Aromaa	9	12	12	(21)	16	16	65
16	14179	Finland	Hartti Nisonen, Antera Uitto, Aromaa	11	14	14	(25)	18	18	75
17	12860	Switzerland	Claude Lambelet, Jean-Pierre Monnier, Martin Lambelet	25	(26)	22	9	13	6	75
18	13557	Italy	Giulietti, Giuseppe Clementi, Pietro Zerrilli	15	16	17	(18)	14	15	77
19	12297	Italy	Paolo Tartaglia, Ginello Di Camillo, Mosconi	(25)	5	11	20	21	22	79
20	13074	Switzerland	J. Weilenmann, Rene Meyer, Mathias Knoepfel	16	13	20	19	(20)	17	85
21	13840	Switzerland	Gilbert Despland, Peter Graf, Margrit Brugger	25	(26)	15	15	19	13	87
22	13345	Italy	Salvatore Tremante, Massimo Tremante, Fornari	14	(26)	18	17	23	20	92
23	13062	Italy	Massimo Coltella, Giardini, Crocioni	13	(25)	24	22	22	19	100
24	11244	Italy	Caronna, Cataldo, Caronna	19	(26)	23	23	24	21	110

# THIRTY-THIRD SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

By Francisco Sola Medina

We started the 1987 winter season with a new boat and participated in the National Championship in early February, we finished first with Juan Santos second, and Miguel Plaza third. My crew was Johnny Meira and my son Ricardo. We together, planned our campaign for the 33rd South American Championship to be held in our home waters in late April.

The winter was very rainy, thus Salinas was very tricky and always with light winds mostly from the northwest. We trained very hard in these conditions and by the Selective Regatta in early April we knew we were extremely fast upwind.

Finally the Thirty Third South Americans started on April 26th with 19 crews and our list of dangerous people included Manuel Gonzalez from Chile, who was sailing his own boat, Juan Santos from Ecuador, who is always fast in Salinas and Andres Lisocki from Colombia, the Defending Champion.

We had one tune up race and this proved that we were right but gave us three new names to the list: Rufino Melero from Chile, Dieter Dyck from Ecuador (Lake San Pablo) and Juan Carlos Plaza, also from our home fleet. Juan Santos won the race with Lisocki second.

We decided to use our 1986 sails and used only a new spinnaker. Also, since the conditions remained light and shifty we wanted to be conservative at the starts (always in the middle) and try to be consistent. Race No. 1 started with winds from 6 to 8 with oscillating shifts of 15-20 degrees. At the start Carlos Ransauer and Juan Plaza took the pin, went in a long starboard tack, picked a big lift and by the first mark they were far ahead of the pack. They were followed by Melero, Lisocki, Dyck and Navarro from Peru. We rounded seventh after an incident with Santos which finished in a 720 for him. Gonzalez and Santos looked very bad. Plaza passed Ransauer on the reaches and the positions remained the same. We managed to pass Navarro, Lisocki and Dyck on the second beat and Melero and Ransauer in the run and came very close to Plaza. At the finish it was Plaza, we came in second, followed by Ransauer, Manuel Gonzalez, who had a nice recovery, Dyck and Navarro.

Second race was sailed immediately after with the same conditions. Manuel Gonzalez and we chose a long port tack, played the shifts to the right, and rounded 1 and 2 followed by a pack of eight boats.

We passed Manuel on the second beat and finished first followed by Gonzalez, Levaggi from Peru, Santos, Dyck, and Plaza.

Next day was hot and rainy and wind was very light and shifty. By the start it was 4-6 knots.

We chose to stay to the left of the course and noticed that there were two winds on it with the right side very favored.

We sailed the race always on the wrong side and finished

16. The race was won by Dyck followed by Melero, Santos, Levaggi and Camila Isaza from Colombia. Luckily for us, Plaza was 8, Manuel Gonzalez 9 and Lisocki didn't improve his previous performances.

After three races we had 1-2-16, Manuel had 4-2-9, Plaza 1-6-8, and Santos 7-4-3.

The fourth race was postponed. Next day we had the same conditions as previous races and conditions were casino or lottery like.

Positions changed during all the race and by the last mark, Juan Plaza and Juan Santos were leading by half a mile. We rounded 10th but noticed that there was more wind near the shore so tacked to the left, picked the wind and passed all boats. Unfortunately the time limit gun was sounded when we were first at 200 yards from the line.

Next day, conditions improve a little bit and race No. 4 was started at 3 P.M. with a 6-8 northwest breeze. Juan Santos won the start and the race in a very convincing way. We rounded the first mark together with nine or ten boats and by playing the shifts managed to finish second, followed by Miguel Plaza, Navarro, Juan Plaza and Manuel Gonzalez.

Last day things looked bad for us because it was programmed for postponed races but conditions didn't look like it was possible to finish two races and we had a 16. The Race Committee was considering to finish the regatta with five races and no throwout but luckily for us the weather changed and by noon we had the typical Salinas conditions.

The fifth race was started with 10-12 knots but still with too many shifts from 16T. 20° degrees.

Positions were very close at the first mark with Navarro, Ransauer and Juan Plaza leading the pack. Positions changed several times during the race and Santos and Juan Plaza chose a very tight cover on us. However my crew was doing a terrific job with the spinnaker and the compass which allowed us to break the cover from Santos and to pass several boats in the last beat to finish 4th. The race was won by Miguel Plaza with Navarro in second and Juan Plaza in third. Juan Santos finished 7th. Manuel Gonzalez 8th and Melero 6th, so after the fifth race and a throwout we had a comfortable lead of seven points over Santos and Juan Plaza. The rest were far behind and it looked like they had no chance.

Sixth race was started with the same conditions, however we decided to start at the pin which was at least five boat lengths favored; this proved to be a disaster since a Peruvian boat fouled and stopped us and because of the current we touched the mark; when we finally rerounded, we were last and very far from the leaders.

Juan Santos and Manuel Gonzalez took the start and rounded first and second and kept these positions until the finish.

Again my crew proved to be in great shape, and after calming myself, they started to call the shifts and the wind patches to round 11th but very close to the pack. We sailed a terrific second beat to round 5th after Ransauer and Plaza. We passed Ransauer on the run and on the last beat Juan Plaza, trying desperately to recover, chose the right side of the course; we picked a couple of shifts to the left and passed him for third, however when we were 100 yards from the line, decided not to cover Ransauer who caught a nice lift and passed us, and we took honors with three points lead

over Juan Santos, and six over Juan Carlos Plaza who finished third. With this, Salinas fleet took the first three positions in the regatta.

This championship was especially important for us, since it was the first time that we have won a South American Championship in our home waters after 23 years, lots of bad luck and six trys.

We are now planning to participate in the next South Americans to be held in Higuierillas Chile, home waters of the actual World Champion, Manuel Gonzalez.

## 1987 South Americans

Pos.	Skipper	Skipper Country	Races						Pts.
			1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Francisco Sola	Ecuador	2	1	(16)	2	4	4	13
2	Juan Santos	Ecuador	7	4	3	1	(7)	1	16
3	Juan Carlos Plaza	Ecuador	1	6	(8)	5	3	6	21
4	Manuel Gonzalez	Chile	4	2	(9)	6	8	2	28
5	Dieter Dyck	Ecuador	5	5	1	9	(10)	9	29
6	R. Melero	Chile	8	(10)	2	8	6	5	29
7	Carlos Ramsauer	Ecuador	3	13	6	(14)	5	3	30
8	Miguel Plaza	Ecuador	(14)	8	13	3	1	7	32
9	A. Navarro	Peru	6	11	10	4	2	(12)	33
10	A. Lisocki	Colombia	9	(12)	9	6	8	2	34
11	E. Levaggi	Peru	12	3	4	13	(15)	13	45
12	H. Sabogal	Peru	(17)	7	11	12	11	11	52
13	C. Isaza	Colombia	13	(15)	5	11	13	14	56
14	J. Novion	Chile	11	9	15	15	(17)	10	60
15	F. De La Concha	Colombia	10	14	12	(NL)	14	NL	70
16	Santiago Romero	Ecuador	NL	NL	14	10	12	(NL)	76
17	J. Rodriguez	Peru	16	16	(18)	16	16	16	80
18	H. Higuera	Colombia	15	17	17	17	(NL)	18	87
19	O. Enriquez	Ecuador	18	18	(19)	17	19	15	87

( ) Throw Out

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