

RONNEBY REFLECTIONS

I've sailed pretty well most places in Europe, globe trotting with Olympic 470's and Fireballs, and one thing that always colours your memory of a place is your result. There is no real getting away from it. If your result is a mess, you usually remember the bad things about a venue. Ronneby must somehow be an exception for, although we were robbed of the title by the actions of the committee, my lasting memory of Ronneby is a good one. And the results are still subject to an appeal.

People make places and classes they say, and I think there is a lot of truth in that. There is no doubt that the actual geography of Sweden makes it a very beautiful place to be, but as a sailing venue one pays a price for all that scenery: the one and a half hours sail out and back from the start and finish each day; the transome-ripping boat-hoiling rocks that were littered everywhere, sometimes not marked. But I actually enjoyed most of that.

The sail out every day made good prac-

tice for rig tuning and sailing off against other boats, and the first couple of return trips, having won the first two races, made for more excitement, as we tried to find the right spot on the coastline where the entrance might be. We actually overshot the inlet by a mile and a half the first day and ended up walking the boat back over an island. The organisers never missed us though. There was no signing off and anyway they were too busy protesting us for being too fast.

Yes, you could say, we are a little bitter about the way we were treated. It happens from time to time at meetings, that's sailing, but at a major international championship . . . I don't think I shall sail in Sweden again . . . a pity really for the sailors themselves were wonderful people who went out of their way to make us feel at home and the Ronneby Club did so much to make things work well, which for most aspects they did.

The one thing that made the entire week so very enjoyable was the way we all stayed at the camp. A real community was established in no time at all. Everyone cooked and ate together and

generally a lot of the international differences were overcome. We British are often accused of being cliquey, a criticism I can well understand as the British contingent at a meeting is usually large. We are lazy with other languages and tend not to make the effort when it comes to communication. Ronneby was different. There was a real feeling of true friendship amongst a bunch of people with one thing in common . . . racing the best boat in the world, the INTERNATIONAL FIREBALL.

And the racing was good, the courses were well set, if a little on the short side by English standards. Good starts, no time wasting and a reasonable variety in windspeed to test us all round. On the minus side, I think potential organisers could learn a few lessons: do have an International Jury and not a local one; throw away the five minute rule, we don't need it, it's unfair and it doesn't work; leave the racing to the sailors and put your manpower into organisation, not aggravation.

Alan (Robbo) Robinson

FIREBALL EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP 1986, RONNEBY SWEDEN

PL.	SAIL No.	NAME	POINTS							TOTAL
1	K13668	Rowland/Hazelwood	8	5.7	0	13	3	22	13	42.7
2	K13127	Driver/Woodhead	30	3	13	8	0	14	17	55
3	K13655	Kennaugh/Reeve	16	11.7	18	5.7	10	10	8	61.4
4	IR13300	Bell/Bell	0	8	46	0	8	0	46	62
5	K13777	Robinson/Poore	46	0	5.7	3	5.7	8	46	68.4
6	K13445	King/Turner	3	19	8	11.7	11.7	15	46	68.4
7	K13660	Speller/Boyes	13	14	21	15	13	3	11.7	69.7
8	S12902	Andersson/Jaghagen	18	13	3	25	20	16	3	73
9	K13747	Ducker/Taylor	10	22	14	16	16	18	5.7	79.7
10	K13750	Kirk/Kirk	14	10	15	14	14	17	46	84
** 11	J13794	Yoshida/Yasukouchi	5.7	23	17	18	17	21	14	92.7
12	S12900	Vester/Vester	24	17	25	23	18	11.7	0	93.7
13	Z13054	Willi/Vetterli	20	15	30	21	19	5.7	16	96.7
14	K12992	New/Hiskey	15	16	19	33	26	13	10	99
15	K13749	Stone/Griffiths	21	18	33	17	15	19	22	112
16	K12821	Gill/Gill	11.7	21	26	20	22	26	21	121.7
17	Z13078	Stolz/Senn	32	30	27	10	30	20	15	132
18	G13234	Stengele/Nolle	17	25	16	24	46	23	27	132
19	K13047	Coulsson/Coulsson	19	24	10	28	25	29	46	135
** 20	KK13148	Hughes/Hughes	23	27	20	26	24	24	20	137
21	B12613	Claerbout/Braet	25	32	23	30	21	27	18	144
22	K13432	a le Page/Chapple	28	20	11.7	35	28	31	30	148.7
23	S12261	Kihlberg/Kihlberg	31	29	35	22	23	32	19	156
24	N12459	Lötveit/Lötveit	22	33	46	19	31	30	26	161
25	H13783	Ververs/van Overdijk	33	31	24	32	34	25	23	168
26	S12124	Fagerström/Fagerström	27	26	29	29	36	38	28	175
27	Z13665	Widmer/Somm	39	38	28	31	32	33	24	186
28	S12263	Danielsson/Engstam	38	37	22	34	27	36	33	189
29	S10899	Vestberg/Bohlin	26	34	37	27	35	37	35	194
30	B10979	Verbruggen/van Beek	29	36	31	38	37	39	32	203
31	S12540	Berglund/Selling	36	46	34	37	42	34	25	208
32	S13193	Nilsson/Palmgren	34	28	46	46	29	28	46	211
33	S10902	Henriksson/Palmkvist	35	39	32	36	38	43	31	211
34	G12626	Muelhauser/Baessler	42	46	38	40	33	40	29	222
35	Z13757	Strasser/Strasser	37	35	46	39	40	44	37	232
36	B6338	Debaene/Gijs	40	43	36	43	41	42	34	236
37	I13474	Manzi/Annese	46	41	46	42	43	35	36	243
38	S10903	Svensson/Svensson	41	40	46	44	39	41	38	243
39	B5379	de Negri/de Negri	43	42	46	41	44	45	46	261

** = Not eligible for European Championship