

1989 European Championship Oostende 7-15 July

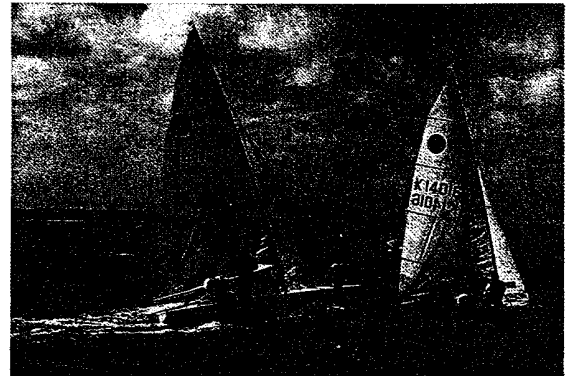
Oostende is situated halfway down the 60 km. long and sandy Belgian coast, and is the oldest sea resort in Belgium, an important fishing harbour and the terminal of different ferries going to the U.K..

150 years ago yachting activities started in Oostende with the foundation of the Royal Yacht Club Ostend, first Belgian yacht club, third of the continent and seventh in the World. Our host the North Sea Yacht Club was founded in 1947 under the impulse of some Snipe owners. H.M. King Baudouin of Belgium is Honorary-Commodore of the Club. The activities of the club are especially aimed at cruiser racing. On 7th of February 1987, with the R.Y.C.O. and the N.S.Y.C. as godfathers, the Ostend Sailing and Racing Club started with activities aimed at dinghy sailing and racing. Thanks to the authorities of the town of Oostende and generous sponsorship a first year of activities started with an opening regatta for different classes.

In 1988 the N.S.Y.C. together with O.S.R.C. organised the European Championship for the Laser Class with 122 starters. After this successful event both clubs together with the Belgian Fireball Association started with the organisation of the 1989 Fireball Europeans. A real event for the Belgian Fireball Association which was trying, since years, to find a club prepared to host this event.

After weeks of enthusiastic work everything was ready for the expected 70 boats from Europe. Only 30 entered on 7th July. The organising clubs received some apologies from N.C.A.s and not a single word from two of them. The final count was: B=9, G=3, H=1, IR=1, K=5, Z=7 + KA=4. If the quantity was not present the quality was there. Just have a look to the final results list and you will find the names of former and future European and World champions of the Fireball Class.

The organisation on the water was very good with starts on time and a minimum of general recalls. Good courses with good breezes and only one shortening in the beginning of the championship. The sea was somewhat rough for the sixth race and many boats had difficulties in passing through the breakers with as result four broken masts and a damaged boat. Launching from a beach has to be learned and our Swiss friends have some difficulties because they have no breakers on thier lakes. The rescue was in hands of the Belgian Pneumatic Club which collaborated very often with the O.S.R.C..



Jim Hunt chasing Ian Pinnell in rough seas off Oostende

The jury had quite nothing to do and Mr. Patrick Bergmans, the Chairman, and other members told me that they were surprised about the fair-play of our competitors. It is not the first time I hear people speaking in high terms about the spirit of our Class. Let us maintain this good reputation.

EUROPEAN FIREBALL CHAMPIONSHIP OOSTEND BELGIUM JULY 1989

Place	Sail No.	Helmsman	Crew	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Race 7	Total
1	K14016	Pinnell Ian	Simpson Jarrod	1 0.0	4 8.0	1 0.0	1 0.0	5 10.0	4 8.0	5 10.0	26.0
2	KA13684	Dransfield John	Perry Andrew	3 5.7	7 13.0	6 11.7	8 14.0	1 0.0	1 0.0	1 0.0	30.4
3	K14072	Hunt Jim	Service Andy	8 14.0	1 0.0	2 3.0	3 5.7	2 3.0	3 5.7	9 15.0	31.4
4	K14058	Rush Tim	Stead Adrian	2 3.0	2 3.0	4 8.0	4 8.0	9 15.0	7 13.0	DNF 37.0	50.0
5	K14069	Hartley Jeremy	Reilly Andrew	6 11.7	3 5.7	PMS 37.0	2 3.0	11 17.0	5 10.0	2 3.0	50.4
6	K13982	Rowland Andy	Griffiths Trevor	4 8.0	9 15.0	3 5.7	6 11.7	6 11.7	8 14.0	10 16.0	66.1
7	Z13666	Schaer Urs	Huber Adrian	5 10.0	5 10.0	5 10.0	5 10.0	10 16.0	9 15.0	7 13.0	68.0
8	KA13947	Byrne Chris	Delange Peter	DSQ 37.0	6 11.7	18 24.0	13 19.0	3 5.7	2 3.0	3 5.7	69.1
9	IR13247	Lyden Finn	Van Der Puil Jan	12 18.0	8 14.0	8 14.0	7 13.0	8 14.0	17 23.0	4 8.0	81.0
10	KA13945	Luketina David	Laidman Mark	15 21.0	11 17.0	16 22.0	9 15.0	4 8.0	6 11.7	8 14.0	86.7
11	Z13943	Wittich Juerg	Good Michael	10 16.0	10 16.0	11 17.0	22 28.0	13 19.0	13 19.0	DNF 37.0	115.0
12	Z13979	Mermod Claude	Heilig Markus	13 19.0	DNF 37.0	7 13.0	15 21.0	20 26.0	10 16.0	15 21.0	116.0
13	KA13699	Baird Gregor	Jagger John	19 25.0	DNF 37.0	10 16.0	11 17.0	7 13.0	DNC 37.0	6 11.7	119.7
14	Z13220	Raschle Markus	Pinsini Marius	20 26.0	DNF 37.0	9 15.0	14 20.0	15 21.0	12 18.0	20 26.0	126.0
15	Z12376	Moser Erich	Moser Ruedi	11 17.0	DNF 37.0	14 20.0	10 16.0	22 28.0	DNC 37.0	12 18.0	136.0
16	Z13758	Oswald Andreas	Hanhart Martin	16 22.0	DNF 37.0	20 26.0	23 29.0	16 22.0	11 17.0	14 20.0	136.0
17	B13681	Verbruggen Jan	Meyers Patrick	21 27.0	DNF 37.0	23 29.0	17 23.0	14 20.0	15 21.0	18 24.0	144.0
18	B13829	Beckers Jean	Gielen Gunter	9 15.0	DNF 37.0	15 21.0	12 18.0	12 18.0	DNC 37.0	DNC 37.0	146.0
19	B14121	Janssens De Bisthoven F.	Van De Loock Arnout	DNF 37.0	DNF 37.0	12 18.0	21 27.0	19 25.0	14 20.0	13 19.0	146.0
20	B12902	Claerbout Claude	Verstraete Paul	7 13.0	DNF 37.0	17 23.0	16 22.0	23 29.0	DNC 37.0	17 23.0	147.0