



In charge of buoys: Aron Lolić and Goran Orlov



Preparation of a sailboat for the big race



Director of the regatta Karlo Kuret and President of the Regatta committee Tonči Antunović



Coffee break: Marijana, Lile and Roža



Putting the starting list together: Goran Martinović and Anita Juršić



The Finn master Ivan Kljaković-Gašpić and company



FIRST DAY OF SAILING

Fleet will be greeted by plenty of wind

The weather forecast is in favour of yachtsmen, there will be plenty of wind so there is an abundance of great sailing ahead for the entire fleet.

All is ready for the nautical side of the ninth edition of the Split Olympic Sailing Week. Tonči Antunović is the president of the Regatta Committee and along with domestic umpires, we are glad to welcome our guests, international umpires lead by our dear Marianne Orvin Middelthon. Claudio Reynaud is also here along with Lóránd Gömbös and Pier Luigi de Luise while Helmut Czasny-Bonomo unfortunately had to stay home due to illness.

We were also sorry to hear that umpire Alen Kustic, Alfa and omega of Croatian umpiring won't be able to join us this year

also due to illness.

As far as applications are concerned, everything is in perfect order, starting lists are filling out, yachtsmen spent the day before the competition getting accustomed to new surroundings, fixing their boats, storing their trailers and pacing themselves for new duels at sea.

Along with all the preparations there was still time for small talk, friendly exchanges of experiences updates on the winter training period and talks of expectations for the season ahead.

All in all, it was a very energetic first day of the Split Olympic Sailing Week, even though it was mostly reserved for dry land since the first regattas will commence today (Thursday), at 13:00 hrs.



That is when we will have our sea reports prepared for you by the press team of JK Labud, organizer of this competition for Olympic classes at the start of a new sailing season.

Our very own band of yachtsmen is in charge of entertainment on friday night

Great live music by Lešo mol (BOILED COD)

Along with all exciting events at sea, hosts of the regatta JK Labud have taken care of the entertainment under the direction of yachtsmen.

A band with a very significant name Boiled cod (Lešo mol) will belt out some great 60s and 70s classics on the plateau in front of our club offices.

There are four of us in the band, Daniel Mihelić, Nikola Smoljenović, and surfer Uroš Pavlović, and all we can say is that we guarantee great fun – said Arol Lolić, lead singer of the band, but also known as a fantastic interpreter of Italian canconas.



HOW THINGS WERE BEFORE – COMMENTARY BY FILIP ZLATAN ZORIČIĆ

Always a battle for the top!

Sailing legend Filip Zlatan Zoričić reminded us of how things used to be in the regatta which was the predecessor of the Split Olympic Sailing Week.

— It all started in 1973 with the regatta which was then called Memorijal Žarko Dešković. Competitions were held in classes finn, FD and 470. I sailed on the Flying Dutchman on which I started to sail in 1968 and in 1071 I competed with the club's boat – Zlatan went back in time to remind us that the last edition of Memorijal Žarko Dešković had its last regatta in 1977.

But as early as 1976 Adriatic Grand Prix was established where the existing fleet was expanded with another class - laser, and on that first year, regatta was held in October, at the end of the season.

— It was a pleasure to participate in those regattas because they all had the prefix – International and for us natives they were also qualifications for the national team and the national championship. Winning in this regatta had a significant meaning for us because back then we only had three foreign regattas: San Remo, Kiel and Hyeres, and today our boys and girls can participate in three strong foreign regattas within one month – says Zlatan.

He remembered his adversaries in the regatta field where he always seemed to

battle it out with Dušan Puh from Slovenia.

— It was always a suspenseful fight for the first place with Puh. I used to sail then with a crew member, now unfortunately late Milo Grbavac and later on with Branko Širola. I have to point out that among the fleet of heavy soloists of the Olympic Finn, our own Mime, Minski Fabris, was way ahead of his competition. No one could even come close to him on the finish line.

This is how we sailed and fought on the Adriatic Grand Prix, a regatta that had a short pause in 1979 and 1980 because of the 1979 Mediterranean games which were held in Split.

— Unfortunately there was another pause during the Homeland war in 1993 and 1994 and noting that the Adriatic Grand Prix, predecessor of today's SOSW was always held in May. Our yachtsmen used to start their season later, meaning that they would head out to the sea for their first wins in March and today's now 9th Split Olympic Sailing Week follows that tradition – Zoričić summed up, stating that he still follows the regatta with great interest as well as the progress of all young skippers, while he still cherishes and fulfils his own passion for sailing, regardless of his age and experience in the cockpit of the sailboat Barba Branko.

THE OLD GUNS ARE SAILING TOO

World champions also on the starting line

Experienced sea-wolves will be amongst the competitors in the class 470.

Ivica Bonacin and Goran Urlič, legendary Čiro, world champions in the veteran's category in 2011 in the waters of the Lignano aquatorium and last years vice-champions from Gaeta will now be able to show off their skills on their home territory.

— Our plan is to be in the top ten – says Čiro!

Two of them will be joined on the regatta field by Toni Bulaja Vepar and Šime Stipaničev.

— I sailed in the 470 three times and this is my second time on the SOSW, says Šime, better known as a participant of the solo cross Atlantic regatta in a 6,5m mini transat.

— This regatta is pure pleasure and this Olympic sailing so it will be great to participate in this competition – concluded Stipaničev.



Team in charge of mainland operations



Under the watchful eye of Sani Delić, everything is prepared in order for all activities on the mainland to run smoothly. Plateau for sailboats is free, trailers have all been transported to the second parking lot and the tent has been erected.









Karlo Kuret, director of the regatta supervised while his brother Ivan Kuret is in charge of the Regatta office. Regatta office was busier than anyone else on Wednesday and Thursday, during the application process which was supervised by Vesna Burić and Marijana Božanić. Starting lists were arranged by Anita Juršić and Goran Martinović.

Everything was coordinated by the secretary of the regatta Rudolf Širola-Kliškić.

Just in case, a medical team is also on stand-by: Stevo Koplić, Anita Orhanović and Vlado Ivančev.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE REGATTA

Thursday, 14/03/2013

TIME	FORECAST	TEMP.	WIND
01:00 – 07:00		10°C	 east-northeast
07:00 – 13:00		10°C	 calm
13:00 – 19:00		10°C	 northeast
19:00 – 01:00		3°C	 north-northeast

According to the meteorologists, on the first day we can expect mostly cloudy weather with periods of rain.

In the beginning of the day, gusts of southern wind are expected in Dalmatia with temperatures between 9–15 degrees, by nightfall moderate to strong Northern wind is expected which will result in a significant temperature drop.

As far as wind is concerned, for Thursday National Hydrometeorological institute is predicting NE winds in the middle of the day in the whole area strengthening to 12–24, sea 3–4, visibility 10–20 km.

EVENTS IN THE CITY – Thursday

Photo-club „Split“ gallery

at 19:00, opening of artistic nude photography exhibition „Your body my house“ / photographs from Luka Marotti's collection

Croatian national theatre / Scene 55

20:00 hrs drama „Autumn Sonata“

Youth theatre / Teatrin

20:00 play „Animal farm“

Club „Quasimodo“

20.30 „Irish night at Bookvica: Paul O'Grady“

The City Museum of Split - Gallery,

Dioklecijanova bb

Exhibition of drawings and sculptures by Josip Živković, Kuzma Kovačić and Zlatko Živković (opening hours every day from 10-18 until March 18th)

Diocletian's cellars (East)

Exhibition by Vedran Kundić (Monday to Saturday 9-18, Sundays 9-14 until March 19th)

Old city hall

Exhibition „Passion as a premonition“ by Ana Marija Botteri Peruzović (9-20, until March 24th)

AF de Split

Exhibition „Utopia in architecture“ by French artist Lucija Bitunjac (until April 2nd)