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## August 29er SCM Report – 29er European Championship, Lipno

The camp and European Championship on Lipno were extremely difficult from the beginning. The wind was highly unstable and shift throughout both the training period and the regatta, making it difficult to establish consistent patterns or run a normal championship preparation.

During the training days, we tried to use the conditions as efficiently as possible and adapt the training objective to what the wind allowed. Depending on the conditions, we ran practice races with a strong focus on **observation and decision-making**, while in other sessions we worked specifically on **very tight exit gate roundings**. A significant amount of time was also spent on **light-wind trimming, starts and acceleration**, as these are likely to be decisive factors in close racing in light and unstable conditions.

Despite the difficult environment, all teams performed reasonably well. There were also some surprisingly strong performances from the heavier crews, who were able to stay competitive with crews **15–20 kg lighter**. This was a positive sign, particularly considering how strongly the light wind conditions normally favour lighter boats.

### European Championship

When the regatta started, the conditions remained just as difficult. The wind was extremely unstable, not only for the sailors but also for the race committee. Over six scheduled racing days, we managed to complete only **four races**. Every race was close to the limit of being abandoned, either because of insufficient wind or because of extreme shifts, in some cases reaching approximately **40 degrees**.

As a result, the championship became to a large extent a lottery. With only four races, there was very little opportunity to demonstrate consistency or properly recover from one bad tactical decision. At the same time, the conditions did provide a useful test of the sailors' ability to observe the immediate situation rather than rely on previously established assumptions about the venue.

Even with such a limited number of races, some positive patterns were visible, particularly from the **new generation of Czech sailors**. There were signs that the younger sailors are beginning to establish themselves within the fleet and are starting to show that they can perform in difficult, unpredictable conditions rather than only in controlled training situations, while the more experienced ones were keeping in contact despite weight disadvantage.

It is obviously a shame that we were unable to complete more racing. Four races over six days is not enough to properly evaluate the crews or their development. However, the main positive takeaway is that **the next generation is slowly establishing itself**, and the championship gave us some early evidence that the work done throughout the season is beginning to translate into the wider fleet performance for the current team.

The programme is now entering an important transition period, with the more experienced crews reaching the end of their current development cycle. Their experience, knowledge and lessons learned throughout the programme should be actively transferred to the younger sailors, creating continuity rather than simply replacing one generation with another.

The priority now is to continue developing these sailors through more consistent training and racing opportunities and **integrate the new generation of sailors into the team in the best possible way and create the conditions for their long-term development**. The goal is not only to improve their immediate 29er results, but to give them the training environment, experience and support necessary to progressively take on a bigger role within the team and prepare for their future careers in higher-performance sailing. With the right development pathway and continued exposure to strong training and racing environments, these sailors can become an important part of the next generation of the Czech programme.

Regards

Marceli.