

MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DN ICE YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION

RUNNER TRACKS

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50 YEARS OF DN SAILING IN POLAND BY ROMUALD ROWECKI P25

BYLAWS PROPOSAL: EXCLUSION BY WARREN NETHERCOTE KC3786

BUSINESS FOR THE TECH COMMITTEE BY WARREN NETHERCOTE

TECHNICAL PROPOSALS BY PETER HAMRAK M53



50 YEARS OF DN SAILING IN POLAND- AN AMAZING SUCCESS STORY

The phenomenon of the Poznan, Poland
iceboats and the development of
the DN Class in Poland
By Romuald Rowecki P25

2019 DN World Champion Michał Burczyński at the 2019 Polish Championship

Photo: Gwidon Libera



ONCE UPON A TIME, TOGETHER WITH MY ICE YACHT CLUB AND CREW CELEBRATING A MONOTYPE XV REGATTA WIN IN 1966 ON ZEGRZYNSI LAKE NEAR WARSAW.

From the left: Andrzej Gronski, Romuald Rowecki, Irena Bartkowiak (team leader holding the Cup from Poland's Minister of Sport), Marian Polerowicz, Henryk Piechota, and Józef Mikulski.

POLAND'S DN CLASS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF DN CLASS ICEBOAT DEVELOPMENT IN POLAND GIVES US OPPORTUNITY TO TELL OUR STORY OF THE PHENOMENON OF POZNAN ICEBOATS ROMUALD ROWECKI P25

In 1966 during a Monotype XV ice yacht regatta on Zegrzynski Lake near Warsaw, I met some Dutch people and a man called Wim Van Acker. He showed us a DN which was a funny little iceboat for us - compared to our 7.5 m long and 300-400 kg heavy Monotypes XVs. The DN seemed like a toy to us.

Our nice Dutch guests encouraged us to sail the DN. We agreed that it worked quite well and I really wanted to build such an iceboat. I asked Wim to send the DN plans and he agreed. In autumn, just as he promised, the plans arrived and I translated them into Polish. Me and my friend, Bolesław Knasiecki, created sail plans in Poznan and the sails were made at a yacht shipyard in Gdansk.

The plans were quickly approved for use in Poland and during October and November 1966 they were sent to Polish sailing clubs, thanks the strong support of the Central Ice Yacht Commission in Warsaw. A lot of people helped me with the project including my good friends Teofil Rózanski and Andrzej Gronski.

5 months later in 1967, the first Polish DN Championship took place in Gizycko. 30 DN's took part in the regatta. Skippers received the Dacron sails which were promised and paid for by Polish Sailing Association. We were really happy at that time. That was the beginning of the story of DN in Poland!

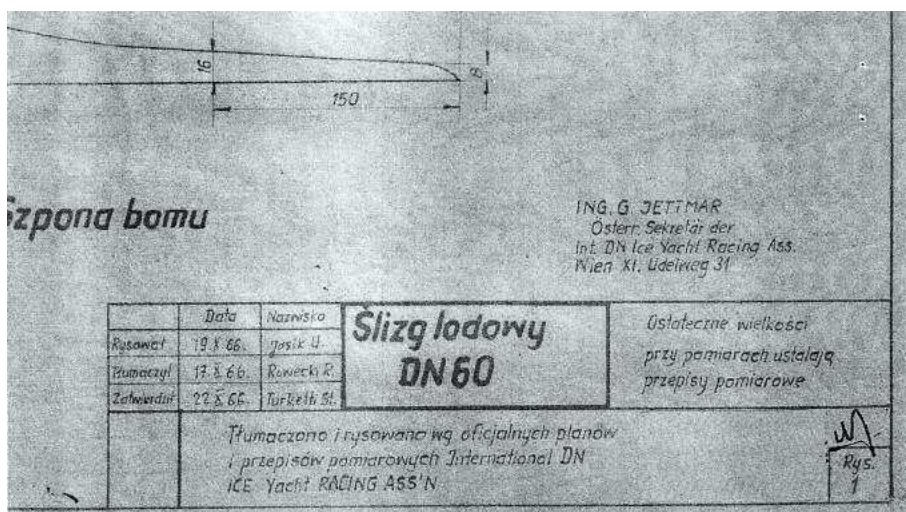
4 new DN's were built at our sailing club workshop by our team. We traveled with the boats from Poznan to Gizycko to the first Polish Championship where we competed in the Junior and Senior categories. We won both divisions!

In 1967 at Stora Vartin, Sweden, Romual Knasiecki from LKS club near Poznan, became the first Polish sailor to win a DN World Championship. Bogdan Kramer from Poznan, won the 1978 World Championship and the European Championship in 1980, 1981, and 1984. We also had great women sailors from Poznan, such as Koscielna-Pawłowska and Roma Rowecka and they won a lot of cups.

For many years Wim van Acker supported Polish iceboating crews, materially and spiritually, providing the necessary components for building iceboats.



NEW TECHNOLOGY



These materials weren't available in Poland back then. The influence of Wim's personality was so strong that many iceboat workshops sprang up, thanks to him. The biggest workshops and sailing clubs were in Charzykowy, Olsztyn, Gizycko, Warsaw, Mragowo, Mikołajki, and many more.

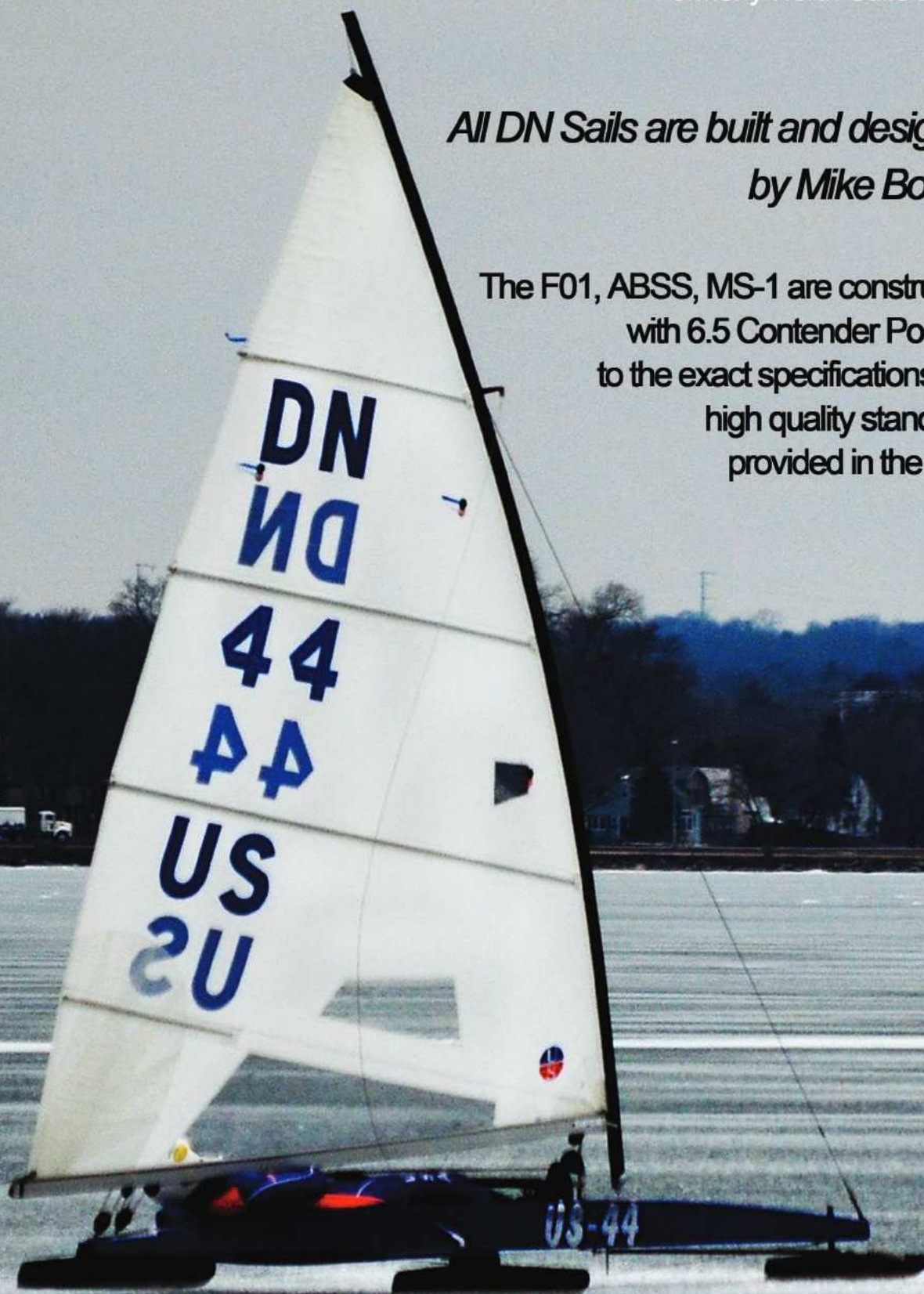
born in Poland include sailmaker Czesław Wawer, who first made Dacron sails in Poland; Ryszard Sprengel, who produced the first DN fittings; and friends from our sailing crew, Ryszard Szumowski with Karol Jabłonski, who produced high quality sails used by champions of Europe and North America. Also, Andrzej Dąbowski,

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FIRST CONTACT

Our first contact with ice sailors from North America was in 1971 when we raced on American lakes (I was part of this group). This was the first effort to establish cooperation between the European and North American DN classes. Wim Van Acker organized and funded our trip to North America in his role as European Commodore of the DN class. He had many difficult conversations with Americans about creating a real organization in Europe and unifying the specifications of both continent's DNs as well as coming to agreement on regatta organization. Wim did it - our dreams came true.

After this great success, the first DN World Championship took place in Europe in 1973. As of 2018, Polish sailors have won 102 medals in the World and European Championship regattas. To commemorate these victories and in memory of Wim, I donated the Wim Van Acker Cup and Diploma which will be awarded to the winner of the first race of the Polish DN Senior Championship.



WIM VAN ACKER CUP



**THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF THE DN CLASS
IN POLAND IN OLSZTYN
20-21 OCTOBER 2017**

Dedicating the Wim van Acker Cup
From left:

Jerzy Najdrowski P-24 Vice President Polish DN class; Romuald Rowecki P-25 with diploma; Marta van Acker wife of Wim van Acker; Jerzy Sukow P-345 President Polish DN class; Wilma van Acker daughter of Wim van Acker H-31



WESTERN POLAND-POZNAN TEAM

**RESULTS OF SAILORS FROM WESTERN POLAND NEAR
POZNAN, AT THE FIRST POLISH CHAMPIONSHIP
FEBRUARY 26-28, 1967**

SENIOR		
1	P-25	Romuald Rowecki PKM LOK Poznan
3	P-28	Andrzej Gronski PKM LOK Poznan
7	P-26	Henryk Piechota PKM LOK Poznan
16	P-11	Stanisław Włodarczyk LOK Rogozno
18	P-9	Kazimierz Karczmarek LOK Rogozno.
19	P-27	Teofil Rózanski PKM LOK Poznan
20		Adam Michalak LOK Leszno
21		Ryszard Sprengel LOK Leszno

JUNIOR		
1	P-25	Józef Mikulski PKM LOK Poznan
6	P-27	Krzysztof Witczak PKM LOK Poznan
	P-28	Sierocin PKM LOK Poznan
	P-26	PKM LOK Poznan



**POZNAN ICE YACHT CLUB IN 1965
MONOTYPE XV WITH A 15 SM SAIL
AND JUNIORS ON L-8 WITH AN 8 SM SAIL**



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im. Vim van Ackera

Kol _____

Organizator

Miejscowość



Sędzia Główny

Miejscowość

Wrzesień 1966 r. - Vim van Acker osobiście przesyłał do Polski z Holandii dokumentację techniczną budowy bojera DN. Od tego czasu wspierał materialnie i duchowo polskie bojery, dostarczając materiały do budowy ślizgów, które wówczas u nas były niedostępne. Dziś po 50-ciu latach, gdy chwalimy się naszymi wspaniałymi sukcesami sportowymi, wyraźnie widać, że były to podwaliny polskiej potęgi bojerowej.



COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL OF THE 50TH

We would not be as successful in this sport were it not for the long time efforts of club members around Poland and in recognition of their merits, we designed and produced, again here in Poznan, medals to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the DN class in Poland.

We held a 50th anniversary celebration of the DN class in Poland in Olsztyn 20-21 October 2017 and deserving recipients were presented with the first batch of medals. Another highlight of the anniversary celebration was screening a historical 25 minute Dutch film about the first DN championship in Poland which took place in Gizycko in 1967. Now, after 50 years, it is clear that without Wim's help, we would not have had such a powerful fleet of Polish DN sailors. Wim Van Acker is our Godfather of Polish DN class!! No other winter sport has brought Poland as much success as the DN class, which was born in Poznan.