

Jaume Soler's blog entry of October 30, 2007. [original version: Spanish]

Internet link: <http://elblogdejaumesoler.blogspot.com/>

We now have the dates for the famous regatta in November – the one referred to by Alinghi's lawyer David Hill before Justice Cahn in the New York Supreme Court, and the one which is supposed to validate Club Náutico Español's (CNEV) status as a challenger of record for the America's Cup. The regatta will take place off Valencia from 23-25 November. The regatta base will not be the Real Club Náutico de Valencia – whom I do not think will lend itself to this game – but instead at Desafío Español's team base.

This is how the race notice reads, dated October 8, 2007, meaning that nobody from CNEV or Desafío Español can say they did not know about this supposed regatta. On top of this, and as if to add insult to injury, the regatta is called *l Trofeo Desafío Español*, just like the Santander Optimist Regatta – the one which wouldn't even have qualified as a weekly optimist training session.

And it doesn't look pretty on this occasion either. The CNEV will be the first to have its inaugural annual regatta declared a Top Level Regatta by the Royal Spanish Yachting Federation (RFEV), co-organiser of the event. However, I am afraid that this regatta does not comply with any of the requirements for its Top Level-rating, according to the rules of the RFEV itself.

You see, for the regatta to qualify, as per the rule book of the Technical Committee for Yachting (*Reglamento del Comité Técnico de Cruceros*), of the RFEV – curiously presided by Manuel Chirivella, who is also the president of the CNEV – the regatta should have been included in the 2007 events calendar which is approved by the Annual General Meeting. And as far as I am aware the 2007 calendar was approved in the spring, and there is no mention of the *l Trofeo Desafío Español*. Further, to be allowed to organise a Top Level Regatta the club must comply with a number of requirements, with which, as far as I am aware, and following pure logics, they cannot comply.

But, if anyone should be in doubt, the Technical Rules for Yachting include the following requirements for a regatta to qualify as Top Level:

“Top Level Regattas shall be included in the official RFEV calendar, approved as such by the Annual General Meeting (...) An approval as a Top Level Regatta will have a duration of one year. Application for Top Level rating must be submitted to RFEV through the appropriate Autonomous Federation, with a guarantee from that Federation, no later than 30 June in the year prior to the regatta being held, including indicative dates and whether the regatta should be a Top Level or a Spanish Championship event.”

Before 30 June 2006 it was not known who would win the America's Cup, and since the Club (CNEV) was only formed on 19 June 2007 it is impossible – both timewise and in terms of organisation – that they could have applied for a Top Level Regatta; simply because such regattas are not given to non-existent clubs.

All this now means that some clubs are upset because of all that RFEV does for CNEV. In fact, a president of a very important Spanish club told me that: “As far as I know clubs and their regattas must comply with a whole regime of rules to qualify for Top Level rating” and that “perhaps they have done away even with those rules!”

So, Pombo [Gerardo Pombo, president of RFEV], Chirivella and Co. fit the rules for themselves. For CNEV the rules and regulations aren't worth the paper they are written on. Looks like this has turned in to a lawless city, where the norm is jumping one's own rules – and the rules of other's.