



# Hjarbæk Sjægtelaug

## To the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO

### Letter of Consent

Hjarbæk, Denmark 19.02.2019

From the Danish union "Træskibssammenslutningen" we have learned about the process concerning the nomination of "The Nordic Clinkerbuilt boat Traditions".

We find it very important that the "The Nordic Clinkerbuilt Boat Traditions" is being nominated to become a part of UNESCO's list of "intangible cultural heritage".

Hjarbæk Sjægtelaug (Hjarbæk Sjaegt Guild) occurred somehow in the middle of the 1970's. At that time some very young people – found interest in the traditional clinker built fishing boat with sails: **Sjægten** (The Sjaegt) .

At that time the Danish National Television (Danmarks Radio) were going to make a screen version of the famous novel "Fiskerne" (The Fishermen) of the author Hans Kirk. The action takes place on **The Limfjord** at the time when **The Sjaegt** still were in use.

Not even one **Sjaegt** that could be used for the filming was left ! That was actually the real reason for the interest for **The Sjaegt** to be resurrected. It would have been very embarrassing if this fundamentally important element of **The Limfjord** would have gone lost.

However, luckily there turned out to be quite a few of **The Sjaegt's** left. But ! They were often changed in a way that they were difficult to recognize. Rebuilt to motor boats and with the body coated with fiberglass and also very often in a poor condition.

These were the boats that the people from Hjarbæk started to buy. The boats were refurbished and had the sprit sail back again. In 1975 the first **sjaegt** came to Hjarbæk. In 1976 there were three and in 1977 there were 7 boats.

The activities of Hjarbæk Sjægtelaug are also developed during the years. The activities in the guild has expanded also taking place inside what can be described as "Coast Culture".

Today there are about 30 number of **Sjaegt's** in the Harbour of Hjarbæk. After a "Tuesday-race" (taking place from May to October) you can very often see up 60 people (skippers and crew members) drinking coffee and enjoying a "Danish" after at the steep place. The Guild is also sailing with guests – groups up to 20-25 persons. The security requirements is strict and the regulations are to be found in writing ! Only boats with special insurance are allowed to sail with guests.

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**Hjarbæk Sjægtelaug**

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One single **sjaegt** is owned by the guild – it is used as a school ship and to invite potential crew members to join “The Tuesday Race” with an experienced skipper at the rudder. All the other boats are individually owned by one person or a boat guild. Everyone is seriously taking care of the maintenance to ensure that the boats are staying as original as possible and also to secure the boats being safe to sail.

Every year in the Weekend between week 33 and 34 **The Sjaegts** are fighting for “**The World Championship**” on Hjarbæk Fjord.

The first event that took place as a joke in 1977 was actually a resumption of an old tradition, a direct connection to the regattas that were arranged around The Limfjord by “The Fishing Associations” in the beginning of the 1900’s.

If you read the old stories about these regattas – that over time developed to be great festivals – there are some clear parallels to the “World Cup” now a days. The content is nearly the same: competing, dinner and a dance in the evening, party speech, music and a lot of spectators.

There is really something to look at this weekend when 60 sjaegts and dinghys are around the harbour and the fjord.

I 2018 the 42nd “**World Championship Sjaegt Sailing**” was held.

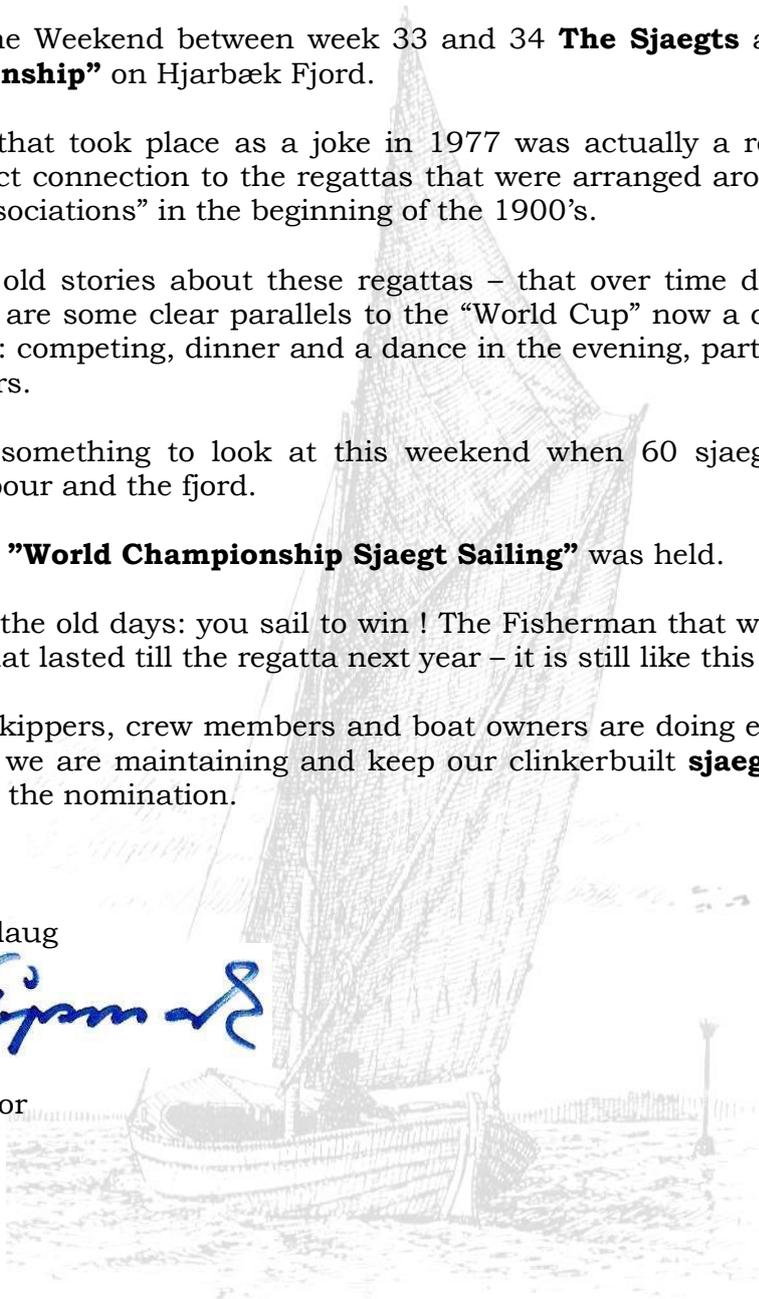
And just like in the old days: you sail to win ! The Fisherman that won the race achieved great prestige that lasted till the regatta next year – it is still like this !

We as a guild, skippers, crew members and boat owners are doing each ours to preserve the tradition as we are maintaining and keep our clinkerbuilt **sjaegts** sailing. Therefore we fully support the nomination.

Kind Regards

Hjarbæk Sjøgtelaug

Leif Tipsmark  
Guild Coordinator



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