

To Mr. Manukhin

We have received your controversial letter with a lot of complaints to our arrangements. Before we go into details I got several reports from the Liaison system of severe problems in mutual understanding. The lack of skills in English among our Russian guests made it hard to work for the liaison officers. This may have had a significant impact on the problems you are describing. My comments to your complaints are as follows;

1. You claim that you were not given the Alma Factor rating index. If that is the case, my apologies to you Mr. Manukhin. The factors will be sent to Mr. Berezkin.
2. Nika was given a 2 hours penalty for short cutting the route. The race comm should have disqualified Nika altogether. I can assure you that we have a lot of races in Finland that is not a straight line. If you are not comfortable in sailing in the archipelago, you should not have taking part at all.
3. You claim that we treated you disrespectfully. You are the first to say so, so thank you very much. We on the other hand, had to explain to police and shop owners both in Kotka and Hanko about some of your colleague's behaviour, stealing in shops and fighting in the streets and getting arrested. It was not a pleasant task to do, and I often got the question why are you arranging this regatta. So thank you very much for your complaint to us of treating you disrespectfully!
4. The SFE-environment race went well, but we had to make one change and that was to abolish the B-class, due to the fact that our Helena was the only one belonging to that class. We did not want to have our own vessel to win. We informed thru the liaison system in Kotka of the changes;
 - a. It is possible to take part even if you do not have a septic-tank.
 - b. We informed that this is a separate class with possibility to win 3000 + 6000 euro.

I will inform Mr. Berezkin of your suspicions against him. As far as I know Mr. Berezkin worked well and honestly towards all of you. Bylina did fill in all papers in Kotka and handed over the rest of the papers in Turku with many other C- and D-class vessels. I do not understand your statement "You are the coordinator of regatta and you will get the prize". What in the earth are you saying? What STAF vessel did win? We own two vessels, Helena and Vahine. Were they among the winners? I will certainly remember this accusation Mr. Manukhin.

The jury, consisting of four members, with high expertise made the ruling. You insinuate that there was some kind of foul play. I will inform the jury of your suspect, and some other authority too in Finland. Your claim is an insult, to me, the jury, and to Mr. Berezkin. You are well noted Mr. Manukhin!!

Then to your list of questions.

1. It seems that you are right and the factors were not given to you. We apologies.
2. The Race Director had a technical problem and was not able to give the results for the first race. We apologise. The same goes for all the results. We did not perform very well in that case. We apologise. The results will be sent to Mr. Berezkin. The results are published on http://www.staf.fi/TGR_TULOKSET/L-6_CLASS for quite a while ago.
3. Nika did a shortcut on race number 1. Nika should have been disqualified totally, but the race comm decided that Nika would get a 2 hours penalty instead.
4. Concerning the SFE-race. They were informed and many C-and D-class did take part.

5. Bylina was considered by far the cleanest no-septic tank vessel by the jury. This was based on several different points gathered from Bylina's records of the SFE-race.
6. SFE-results were presented at the prize giving, by the chairman of the SFE-race.

You are ending your letter with respect and hope for understanding. How can you write something like that and at the same time accuse us of foul play?

You are also threatening us that you will publish this on various web-sites. The only thing I can say about that is; publish it if you want.

You are also threatening us that you will direct this to the STA race committee. I'm not sure what you mean by that. There is no STA involved in sail training. As the chairman of The Gangut Regatta you have already reached the STAF / race comm. If however you are referring to STI / Sail Training International, Race committee, please be advised that STI has or had absolutely nothing to do with The Gangut Regatta. In other words, send it to STI if you want.

Finally I want you to know that there were colleagues of yours that used my good name to get an invitation to Finland on false pretences. They claimed that they would take part in TGR, but took only part in some of it or not at all. The most insulting behaviour was the boat that sailed up to the SAR in Hanko before the start and announced that "we will sail to Mariehamn". The name of the vessel and all on board are well recorded in various places.

Altogether, and forgetting your letter, I had the pleasure of meeting a lot of really friendly and civilised Russian sailors, true gentlemen, during the Gangut regatta. That was a pleasant experience.

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Stefan Abrahamsson

Managing Director

Sail Training Association Finland

