

European Championship & Trophy report 2011 (made by Calle Lindfors)

Laser Standard Senior and Radial Women in Helsinki June 2011.

Based on an initiative from Helsinki Sail Racing Committee (organization consisting of 6 sailing Clubs) a combined European Championship was held for 6 Olympic Classes (Laser, 470, 49er, Finn and Women Match). Additional Star class had a Northern hemisphere championship.

Preparation for regatta:

Finnish Laser association had to assist more than usual in preparing the organization for this event. Laser was also the biggest class with 252 sailors.

Preparations went well, but for future coming events if the organization does not have experience of running multi class events we need to be involved deeper in preparations specially related to preparations of all onshore activities related to our laser concept.

Onshore facilities:

Helsinki offered an excellent venue place close to center and lodging.

Structure of the facilities was clear and offered space enough for parking, launching etc...

Measurement and registrations went smoothly and charter boats offered according to requests. Although race Office did a good job handling several classes they failed to offer some services. This due to not familiar with how our class is working and at same times other classes around with same issues.

This was backed up by Finnish Laser Class and for future events we need to train people in race office, if they are not familiar with Laser concept.

Sailors bar and offering of food was according to agreement.

On sea activities:

Standard and Radial sailed on different courses and completed 9 and respectively 8 races.

Sailing club NJK (Nyländska Jaht Klubben) assisted by people from Estonian Kalev Jaht Club did a good job on sea. Typical southeast breeze did not occur so it made the work harder for race committee. No major incidents or disappointments were reported from sailors or coaches.

Scoring:

Scoring went well, big thanks to Eric Mellbaum that assisted and trained the scorers.

As we had a different set up with 6 qualification races and 4 final races + medal race/ or a final 5: Th race for 10—, clarity needs to be noticed for future regatta with this concept.

Media and tracking:

One of the biggest reasons for having a joint Olympic class's regatta was media coverage and raising the profile of sailing. To my opinion we reached only half way. Pretty goof media coverage locally and medal races was broadcasted in evenings. A big disappointment was lack of audience for medal races and unfortunately tracking system did not work.

Conclusion:

After discussions with sailors, coaches and other people involved I got positive feedback for this kind of event and concept of running EC. Problem is always to get classes calendars coordinated and find venue places to host these kinds of multiclass events. It will be a challenge for future to get clubs to host EC: s due to economics and recourses and at same time keep quality of regattas.