

WORLD AIRLINE SAILING CHAMPIONSHIP 2013 WITH LIGHTNINGS IN TUUSULANJÄRVI



Photos By: Jukka Jaskari

World Airline Sailing Championship combined with Airline Social and Cultural Association event was sailed in Tuusulanjärvi in September, 2013.

In the race Airlines have six sailor teams. There must be a different skipper for starts followed by each other. Eight teams arrived in Finland to challenge the team of Finnair. Most far away teams came from Australia, USA and Canada. All together nine teams participated in this year's event.

Preparing for the event began already a year earlier by Finnair Boat Club. They chose Lightning and Tuusulanjärvi as the boat and the place for year 2013 event. Tuusulanjärven Purjehtijat was responsible for the race organization and boats. Finnair Boat Club arranged social events, housing and dinners. Competitors' wish was that the event will be in September due to European summer vacations. To grant to that wish was quite a big risk due to autumn weather, but luckily the beginning of September was warmest in ages. On the other hand high pressure caused unfortunately light winds.

On Thursday the 5th of September sailors familiarized themselves with boats and conditions of the lake. There was hardly any wind, but sailors were satisfied with the boats and eager to wait for the first races on Friday. The Finnish Olympic winners in Sidney 2000 said at that time "that the sailing at Sidney bay does not deviate from sailing at Tuusulanjärvi". Quantas team didn't agree. Well okay, we don't have sharks in the lake! Get-together Dinner in Restaurant Huili prepared the sailors for well-deserved sleep in the Hotel.

Friday morning was completely calm (already the forth morning). It was quite clear that the sailors had to wait for the first start a long time. While sun was shining the time flied and at noon it was time to have a lunch at the club. Soon after the lunch first breeze came and at quite a bustle the first boats were on the water. After five races the scores were even on the top. Lufthansa, British Airways and Finnair (even with OCS) were well before others. Quantas was fourth.

After the races it was time to go to Finnish sauna which was an exotic experience for faraway visitors. After that there was a gorgeous BBQ in harbor. Troubadour Airline Captain Kalle Klotz jammed himself into sailors' hearts.

Unexpectedly there wasn't any changes for weather on Saturday, except a pea-souper on the lake. Same tactics as earlier; waiting, good food and rumble to the water. Four more races were sailed and the results were ready: Finnair was the winner, Lufthansa from Germany came second, Quantas from Australia was third with their great spurt, British Airways was fourth and Air Canada fifth. SAS from Denmark and Sweden was sixth, Austrian Airlines seventh, KLM from Holland eight and United Airline was ninth.

2013 WASC Prize giving ceremony was held in Huili with a big party. 2014 WASC is going to be held in Sidney Australia.

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