

Hi "Concerned race participant",

On behalf of FLYC we apologize for the disappointing race operation and recognize that there are many points in race management that we can improve on. I would like to summarize the points you have made and talk about ways we can improve. Your feedback and years of experience are helpful and needed if FLYC expects to continue to grow our membership, reputation and influence in the sailing community.

Wind Forecast: The club was fully aware of the forecast as we should have made arrangements to be flexible on the racing schedule and shifted race 4 into the Saturday schedule. The focus of a regatta is the racing and to provide the best racing experience we need to be flexible aligning with the forecast.

Start/Finish line: The concern from R/C was that due to the position of the R/C boat, starting fleets would be crossing finishing fleets. This is not an excuse and we are looking at reversing the start/finish line positions to avoid the cross traffic issue in the future. This would allow boats to finish while we have a start sequence going.

Fleet turn around: With the start/finish line issue resolved we will make every effort to start fleets as they are ready in the future. Each fleet was assigned a number / numbered flag so the system was in place to change the starting order even though it was not used in this case. We recognize this as a failure on our part for this years race and will plan to instruct R/C on how to better manage starts in the future. Racers come to sail, not to mill around the start line waiting.

To bring a boat and crew from out of town takes a great deal of effort and expense to which we should be providing the best race experience possible. No one travels to a regatta for the food, t-shirts and raffle prizes. While these are nice to have, the thing everyone takes away from a regatta is how good the racing was/wasn't. As a new Commodore and being new to planning a regatta, it was easy for me to focus on the planning part and just assume the racing would take care of itself. This is clearly a mistake on my part and I will personally make every effort to remedy this in the future.

I took on the role of Commodore to see the club flourish and grow and in the last 4 months I have come to realize that there is a great deal of bad history that needs to be addressed with fleets and our local clubs. I was not around 10 years ago to understand the politics and issues that would drive a fleet to boycott a regatta or club. Wrongs were clearly done and although this Camellia Cup can be seen as just another mismanagement of racing, let me be clear when I say that I am not afraid to make the changes necessary to bring the clubs reputation and membership up to expectations. My initial focus has been to make the club more fun and approachable which we have been very successful with. New membership is up and there is a positive buzz around the lake with new, younger faces participating. We still have much room for improvement and to be successful we need to make the racing aspect of the club more professional, fair, approachable and fun.

Know that your feedback did not fall on deaf ears and that I am more than willing to have an open conversation with you or anyone else that can provide constructive feedback on how we can improve.

Thanks,
Mark Werder

