

NEWS FROM THE COCKPIT



S&S Swan 55/002 Galiana

at the Ocean Globe Race

Dear S&S Swan Association Members and Friends,

it is very difficult to introduce you to Tapio Lehtinen, a Finnish iconic figure of ocean sailing, who already participated to the **1981 Whitbread Round the World Race** and **2018 OGR**, this time solo sailing with a Sparkman&Stephens designed **Gaia Benello** (prototype of S&S Swan 36), and finished 5th overall, so we will quote his own words.

*I have been a great fan of **Olin Stephens** since my childhood. In 1969 as a 11 year old, keen junior sailor, I lived next door to the Vator boat yard in Helsinki, which was building two long keeled 36' offshore racing boats to the S&S design #1710 of mahogany on oak frames. I followed the building process and admired the beautiful yachts as they were finished. Growing up I was following the success of the **Nautor** yard, producing one beautiful S&S design after another. I was also a keen reader of yacht racing history and soon understood the lineage from Olin Stephens breakthrough **Dorade** design to the last RORC rule inspired racing yawl, Swan 55. With designs like Stormy Weather, Baruna, Bolero, JFK's Manitou, Bogie's Santana etc etc in between. **The Swan 55 has always been my dream boat**, the most classic and beautiful boat Nautor ever has built - with all due respect to all the other S&S ones:).*

As a young man in 1981, I sailed the Whitbread Round the World Race on Skopbank of Finland as watch leader. During the past decades, I have woken up countless times remembering dreaming of doing the Whitbread again. So, after finishing the single handed, nonstop Golden Globe Race 2018 with my S&S # 1710 Benello Gaia 36 and hearing of the Ocean Globe Race being organised, I understood that here is my dream come true. I soon found Galiana, a 1970 Swan 55 in very nice shape in Hamble for sale and by the end of the season 2019 we had sailed her to her new home in Helsinki.

The idea of racing around the world round the three capes has it's inspiration in the tea clippers of the 1800s and in the Great Grain Race of early 1900s. The Finnish ship owner, Gustaf Erikson once said that the sailing ships will sail as long as he lives. His four masted barques dominated the Grain Races between the wars and his Pamir and Passat were the last ones to round Cape Horn carrying wheat from Australia to Europe in 1949. His windjammers were kept in pristine condition, sailed by highly experienced captains bringing the vessels, crews and loads safely to port. I have huge respect for the seamanship of the time and want to do my share of keeping that legacy alive.

In the summer of 2020 Galiana sailed actively in the Finnish waters with a try out crew of 55 sailors between 17 and 32 years of age. This season we will be sailing with a group of 20 sailors, the race crew will be 12 sailors, mostly between 20 and 35 year olds, roughly one third women. Our new engine got stuck in the jam in Suez, so the start of our second Covid 19 - season will be somewhat delayed - but we are very eager to get on the water again:).

You can follow our project on our facebook pages "tapio lehtinen sailing" and our home pages (link below).

We are proud to support Tapio and his **S&S Swan 55/002 Galiana** at Don McIntyre's organized **2023 Ocean Globe Race**: Fair winds Tapio and Galiana!

www.tapiolehtinensailing.fi

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