

## 2013 Event Report

What a great “Spirited” regatta, thirty-one enthusiastic French Yacht competitors, including Jeanneaus, Dufours and of course Beneteaus who were the hosts for the weekend.

The first race day the regatta kicked off with all the competitors, arriving for registration with, in most cases a full complement of crew, many of whom really got into the French spirit with their French style crew uniforms.

Race 1, due to forecast very light winds, Race Officer Sylvia Talbot kept the fleet confined by choosing a course of two laps around Green Island, a good choice, resulting in some very close racing with finishes seconds apart.

In the Performance Division the four evenly matched Beneteau Firsts – Blunderbuss, Carbon Credits, Not a Diamond and The Matrix stuck together like glue, swapping places all round the course. Small mistakes became very costly. The Matrix Crossed the line seconds ahead of Carbon Credits to win the “Fastest French Yacht on the Bay” trophy.

Handicap honours and the French Yacht Challenge Trophy in Performance went to Peter Uscinski’s First 42s7 Medina, in second place was Geoff Trewin’s First Love, a Beneteau First 40.7, recently transferred from Keppel Bay. First Love and Medina practically match raced all round the course, with first Love getting the edge at the finish.

Third place getter, Tow Truck a First 34.7 arrived just days ago from Lake Macquarie and had not been sailed by the new owner, Andris Stenders before the first race. A great effort.

In the Cruising Division, where the bulk of the fleet were entered, there was also some very close competition, keeping the race committee busy at the finish

The dark horse of the day was the brand new Beneteau Oceanais 45, Enavigo, the first in Queensland, had never been sailed before Saturday. Skipped by Lachlan MacFarlane and crewed by his fellow Nacra sailor friends. Envaviga was leading the cruising fleet half way round the first lap when the leading performance fleet, starting ten minutes later caught up with them and it was not an easy job getting past. Guess who should be in performance next year!

One of our better known Beneteaus, thought he liked the look of the Etchells and decided to finish with them. The Etchells Finish boat pointed him in the right direction, so I think he ended up with two finish times!

The smallest boat in the fleet was another first timer in the Beneteau Cup, Paul McKey’s Nemeau, a Beneteau First 27.7

First place and the French Yacht Challenge Trophy went to Jeanneau 39i, Lookout, Paul Giles, from Southport. Second place was Jeanneau 37, Solaris, Gregory Mahoney, third was Oceanis 393, Euphoria, Grant Somerville.

Day 2, the second heat of the Spirit Marine Beneteau Cup, once again great weather 15- 20 kts easing off later in the race, pretty much as forecast. This time RO Sylvia sent us round Peel Island, a little more testing for the navigators, with lots of sand shoals and narrow channels, but once again really close racing.

In the Performance Division, once again Carbon Credits, Trevor Bailey and the Matrix, Dave Waller and Jane Virtue match raced round the course, until unfortunately for Carbon Credits and fortunately for The Matrix, Carbon Credits fell foul of a sand bank, allowing the Matrix to get the lead and hang on to it for the rest of the race.

The Matrix was first over the line followed by Carbon Credits, finishing in the same positions on handicap. Third place went to Medina once again after a close race with First Love.

First overall and the Beneteau Cup No 8 went to Medina. Second was The Matrix, a moment of nostalgia for the owners of The Matrix, who used to own Medina, and third Carbon Credits.

Day 2 Race 2 in the Cruising division, Ambience, an Oceanis 51 was first across the line, winning the Beneteau Bell for Line Honours.

First on handicap was Sundance, a Cyclaydes 393 skippered by Keith Baker, who came down from Mooloolaba on Thursday to make sure he got here in time. Second was an Oceanis 393, Euphoria, Grant Somerville and third another 393, Mocean, David Moran. The 393s must be a good boat to own!!

The overall placing for the Beneteau cup were the same three boats Sundance, Euphoria and Mocean

We have had great feedback from a lot of competitors, it seems that the Beneteau Cup/ French Yacht Challenge is the type of friendly relaxed regatta that a lot of sailors, particularly cruising boats enjoy. Competitors were particularly appreciative of the information radioed to them by Race Officer Sylvia before the start and giving a position for the finish line.

Thank you to our sponsor Spirit Marine and to RQYS for hosting another successful regatta.

Thanks also to David Redfern for lending his delightful Grand banks as a Photography boat. Photos by Troy Casswell, Elements Imaging

Jane Virtue

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