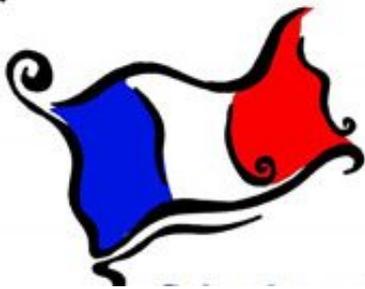


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Queensland Beneteau Cup: preparing for fun in the sunshine

Tuesday, September 14th, 2010



Media Release

14 September 2010

Queensland Beneteau Cup: preparing for fun in the sunshine

By – Tracey Johnstone

The 2010 Ensign Yachts Queensland Beneteau Cup and French Yacht Challenge is about having fun, French-style, with champagne, croissants and sailing all on offer on the weekend of 30 and 31 October.

French production yacht owners, whether they are serious racers or laid back cruisers, are welcomed to the event. And for those cruisers who find racing a mysterious experience of shouting, suspicious gestures and lots of numbers, the event organisers are offering them the chance to understand some of the basics of racing before heading out in the regatta.

On Wednesday 29 September a pre-regatta race training evening will be held at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron. Event organiser, Jane Virtue, explains why this innovation has been introduced to this year's event. 'In the past at least half of the Beneteau Cup entrants have been basically cruising sailors who race occasionally, or for some it was their first regatta. Last year we had a few questions about certain aspects of racing in general so we thought a bit of pre-race training might take away some of the perceived mystery.'

The evening will address pre-regatta planning, race start and course strategies, enough racing rules to keep them out of trouble and basic boat tuning.

Equipped with this information and tummy full of French breakfast cuisine, the cruising fleet with friends and family aboard will line up against the racing fleet to contest the French Yacht Challenge on Saturday 30 October. This fun race will take the combined fleet around an 18 nautical mile course on Moreton Bay. Owners will be able to choose between spinnaker and non-spinnaker divisions.

Once back at the dock after a pleasant afternoon on the water, the fleets will be able to tuck into more French cuisine and wine.

Sunday will see the Beneteau racers back on the water again, this time to contest the second half of the Ensign Yachts Beneteau Cup racing in two short windward/leeward courses.

Last year's Queensland Beneteau Cup attracted 20 entries with Royal Queensland's Mike Gibson on Curlew, racing in the non-spinnaker division, taking out first place overall from Tony Kinsman on Blunderbuss racing in the spinnaker division.

Entries close on 15 October 2010 and can be lodged by contacting the event organiser, Jane Virtue on jane.virtue@bigpond.com

END

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