

## Issue 25. Out Now!



## Magazine Issues

[issue 25 - 2014](#)

[issue 24 - 2013](#)

[issue 22 - 2013](#)

[issue 21 - 2013](#)

[issue 20 - 2012](#)

[Issue 19 - 2012](#)

[Issue 18 - 2012](#)

[Issue 17 - 2012](#)

[Issue 16 - 2011](#)

[Issue 15 - 2011](#)

## Featured Article

### Waterlines



A view from inside the boatbuilding industry with Peter Brady. Welcome to 2013 and I hope all readers of Bow 2 Stern plus the staff ...

[Read More >>](#)

# The Passion for Boating in Queensland

## Spirit Marine Qld Beneteau Cup and French Yacht Challenge



By Tracey Johnstone.

October 27 & 28, 2012 - event report

*French fighting spirit ... This year's Spirit Marine Beneteau Cup and French Yacht Challenge was a battle of man against the elements as a southerly front hit the bay early on day one and then decided to stay for the whole regatta.*



It was the hardy souls of the fleet that made it through the French Yacht Challenge on Saturday in the freshening 25kts and then backed up on Sunday for more punishing weather for races two and three in the Spirit Marine Qld Beneteau Cup.

Hosted by Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron over the weekend of October 27 and 28, most of the 26 cruising and racing yachts ranging in size from 31ft through to 50ft, tackled the conditions quite well.

On day one several wise skippers put a reef in their main as they hovered around the start line watching the south-easter tickle the 15kt mark. Race Officer Sylvia Talbot then heralded the start of the day's racing with a resounding rendition of the French national anthem. Then it was down to business.

The 17-boat Cruising Division were first off the start line on a short passage race to Lockyer Beacon then around Mud Island before heading back to the finish. Their generous start line ensured the fleet

were able to spread out comfortably, except for Ben Shipley's Dufour 365 Jazz and Keith Baker's Cyclades 393 Sundance who, just after crossing the start line, touched briefly before parting ways to continue their race and ultimately towards a protest hearing.



Leading the fleet across the line towards the pin end was Richard Mark's Beneteau First 42, Euphoria II, followed very closely by Paul Giles' Jeanneau 39i, Lookout. Defending champion, Michael Schmidt's little Sun Odyssey 32, Flight Deck, ran the line on port staying well clear of the rest of the fleet. He stayed on that tack for quite some time while the leading boats hung onto their starboard tack.

Next off was the 11-boat Performance Division. The biggest boat, Dave Waller and Jane Virtue's First 50, The Matrix, suffered from an early start and were forced to return and re-cross, losing valuable distance on their closest rivals, Tony Kinsman's Beneteau First 40, Blunderbuss, and Trevor Bailey's Beneteau First 45, Carbon Credits.

Blunderbuss continued to lead the fleet on the two mile beat towards the first mark. They powered around the first mark and onto Mud Island with the breeze building towards 25kts, gusting to 30, on the outer parts of the course. To the surprise of The Matrix team, Kerry Spenser's Jenneau, Pharlap, was next around the mark. "You have to pardon the pun, but the dark horse out there was Pharlap," regatta organiser and handicapper Waller said.



In the Performance division Euphoria II held its lead over Lookout and Peter Brooks' Oceanis 473, Neptune.

As the breeze built, so did the drama. Around Mud Island and spinnaker up, The Matrix decided, rather than go bare-headed for a gybe, they would keep the spinnaker up. Next thing the pole was in the water and The Matrix on its ear. Luckily no major damage occurred other than possibly a few bruised egos.

On Carbon Credits they found themselves with a spinnaker drop that became a nightmare. No amount of action could seem to get the spinnaker down and they were seen rapidly heading north in the general direction of Mooloolaba. Adding insult to injury, their engine refused to fire and a call to the Volunteer Coast Guard was their only rescue option.

The later part of the day continued to unfurl with drama on many of the boats. To the credit of the Cruising Division only three boats retired from that day's race.

On handicap after a super battle on the water, the winner of the French Yacht Challenge Division One non-spinnakers was Neptune ahead of Paul Giles' Lookout and in third Euphoria II. In Division Two, first place went to James Irvine's Jeanneau 409 Mayfair followed by Blunderbuss and into third was The Matrix.



The handicap results for the first race of the Spirit Marine Queensland Beneteau Cup were in Division One, first place to Neptune, second place to Euphoria and third place for Sundance. In Division Two, Blunderbuss led overall from The Matrix with third place being held by Peter Uscinski's Frist 42s7, Medina.

On day two it was only the Beneteaus back out on the race track to complete the final races of the Spirit Marine Qld Beneteau Cup. Both races were windward / leewards sailed in strong winds and very choppy bay conditions.

With hot favourite Carbon Credits off the course and still suffering from equipment failure on day one, Blunderbuss was the stand-out boat leading the Performance Division all the way through their two races. They found their rough weather groove while the other Performance Division members struggled with the heavy winds.

In the Cruising Division the battle between Neptune and Euphoria II continued as they swapped first place on handicap between the first and second race, while Sundance continued to plod along quietly in third place in now reduced fleet of four boats.

The overall honours in the Beneteau Cup Performance Division went to Blunderbuss. The team beat the larger 50ft Matrix across the line in all three races and then took the trophy out on handicap.

Kinsman was pleased the Blunderbuss team had two days of racing in heavy winds to test the team and boat as they prepare for heading south in December.



“It was the sort of conditions that suited our yacht. We have a crew that we have been developing during the last couple of years. We are preparing to compete in the Sydney Hobart race this year. It was the right sort of conditions to really try out our yacht, our crew and our crew work.

“The crew sailed the boat really well. The sail manoeuvres went pretty much like clock-work and we go the boat going well. The issues were some stress on one of our headsails and we lost a winch handle,” Kinsman said.

Neptune did a superb job to finish 1/2/1 in the three races, handling the heavy conditions comfortably taking out first place in the Cruising Division of the Spirit Marine Beneteau Cup ahead of Euphoria II and Sundance.

Eden Lynch

About the author:

[\[ Back \]](#)

[< Prev](#)

[Next >](#)