

Spirit Marine Queensland Beneteau Cup & French Yacht Challenge

25, 25 October 2014



Mike Mollison getting in the French mood before the start

After a week of speculation as to what the weather was going to like for the 9th Queensland Beneteau Cup & 5th French Yacht Challenge, finally the day of the French Yacht Challenge dawned with a lovely sunny day, and plenty of wind, some would say too much!!

Most of the twenty seven entrants arrived for the French yacht Challenge on Saturday, dressed for the occasion in French outfits. Judges

Sarah Egan & Sylvia Talbot had a hard time picking the best dressed crew, but decided on a very worthy winner – Geoff Trewin and his 'First Love' crew, all sporting black moustaches, which I think they might have swallowed during breakfast as they disappeared later.

The course for the day was round Mud Island, The Cruising Division setting off first with the fleet bunched up pretty close together at the start, race winner on handicap and winner of The French Yacht Challenge Trophy Ron James (Oceanis 41 Synergy), said he tacked away to get clear air and then had a good race from then on. He said they elected not to hoist spinnaker as they were already doing 8 to 9 kts when he saw the problems some of the performance fleet were having as they sailed past at the top of Mud Is.

First time entry to the French Yacht Challenge, Greg & Sue Williams - Oceanis 45, 'Lovin Life', took the lead on the run to the Lockyer Light and went on to finish with a convincing line honours win, followed by Neptune - Peter & Trish Brooks.



**True Love Crew
Winner of the Best Dressed Crew**



**James & Sally Crowley with
Stuart Markwell**



Jayd



Lovin Life Crew

It was the first time Greg & Sue had raced the 45 and had the company of a couple of friends and their dog. I hope they enjoy many more Beneteau Cups.

Great to see Ben Shipley & Diana Den Houdijker's Sense 43 Jayd, back racing again after the addition to the family, sailing into second place, ahead of James & Sally Crowley's Beneteau First 30, Sahara.



Not a Diamond starting to work hard

In the Performance division things were not quite so rosy for some, in fact after the reasonably close racing with most of the fleet up to the East Cardinal off Mud, it was then wind against tide, with the wind now at 26kts gusting to 30 and over, it was a feeling of déjà vu for those of us who had raced the course 2 years ago and come to grief in a spectacular way.

Some skippers who elected to put up spinnakers were soon having problems, apart from David Redfern and his crew in Not a Diamond (First 40), who hoisted and then took off with not too many problems, none that we could see any way,



**Flight Deck Crew Performance
French Yacht Challenge Winners**

to crossed the line first to win the Fastest French Yacht on the Bay Trophy ahead of James Irvine's Mayfair also a First 40, who managed to stay in touch, even though they eventually shredded their spinnaker. Carbon Credits, Trevor Bailey, crossed less than a minute behind with a purple wine glass!!

Tow Truck (Andris Spenders), the eventual Beneteau Cup Performance winner also managed to fly a symmetrical spinnaker, due, he says to the excellent crew he has managed to gather.



**Not a Diamond winner of the Fastest French Yacht
on the Bay**



**Cruising Division Beneteau Cup winners
Ron & Mary- Louise James & crew**

Michael and Leanne Schmidt Sailing Flight Deck (Jenneau SO 32), managed to fly under the radar to win the French Yacht Challenge Trophy. It is not the first time for Flight Deck, as they have won the French Yacht Challenge on two other occasions in the Cruising Division, Congratulations, but we will have to tie an anchor to your stern next time!!

Day two of the Beneteau Cup came with a strong wind warning, increasing winds and the possibility of severe storms!! A great day ahead!!

Race Officer Sylvia Talbot decided to send the fleet around Peel Island so that we were sailing in more sheltered waters and not too far from home. A great choice, as the weather turned out to be actually very kind to us and we had a very relaxed race which most crews needed after the day before; thank heavens forecasts are not always accurate and the storm did not happen. Not good for the gardens!!



Stuart Presenting Performance Beneteau Cup to Tow truck Crew Angus

In the Cruising Fleet, race winner and overall Cruising Division winner, Synergy, said they had a good start, and after a bit of a tussle with Lee Randall in

Enavigo, they managed to fly an Asso on the way to South West Rocks. Ron said that they had a great sail and contributes their 12 second win from Grant Somerville's Euphoria, to a good start and being able to fly a spinnaker. Maybe all the practice at Hamilton

Island Race Week this year also helped. Beneteau Cup 9th time competitor, Stuart Markwell in Alvis came in third.

The two wins for Synergy ensured that they had convincingly won the overall Cruising Division Beneteau Cup with Alvis second and Sahara third.

Our sponsor, Lee Randall, sailing Enavigo an Oceanis 45 led the fleet for most of the race, in fact the

performance fleet could not catch him, and was line honours winner of the Perpetual Beneteau Bell Trophy.

the now rather small Performance Division, due to retirements, division swapping, and other commitments, there was a close tussle between Mike & Angela Mollison in Scamp and The Matrix (Dave Waller, Jane Virtue) The Matrix put up a



Sponsors Sarah Egan, Lee Randall & Jennifer Dickson



Alvis



Not a Diamond & The Matrix



Jayd Crew & Future Crew



Medina

Code 0 and Scamp retaliated with an Asso, although the Matrix sat on his hip for the next few miles could they not get past, however good things come to those who wait and on the last leg home, both boats went for the same sail combinations and after an unfavourable wind change, Scamp could not hold their Asso and let the Matrix with the more suited Code 0, sail past to cross the line first.

Scamp was still able to win the race on handicap, with the Matrix second and Medina (Peter & Joanna Uscinski), third with fourth place going to Tow Truck, giving them the points needed to win the Performance Division Beneteau Cup, with Scamp second and The Matrix third.

We welcomed some new entrants this year, David Looke with an Archambault A40, Broadsword, David Hows with Ocean Gem, Beneteau Moorings 445. David, a visitor from Southport Yacht Club said he had a great time and is looking forward to next year; Simon Cane with Ta-A-Na, a Beneteau 323 and already mentioned Greg and Sue Williams (Lovin Life)

Also great to see Brad and Maryke Barker back again after a few years absence. Brad and Maryke hail from Pt Curtis Yacht Club originally but now are semi permanent visiting residential grandparents at the RQYS Marina in their 'granny flat' Tuan.



Ocean Gem Crew Southport Yacht Club

The Queensland Beneteau Owners Group would like to thank the RQYS staff and volunteers who did a great job of helping making sure the regatta ran smoothly. A special thank you to our Race Officer for the fourth time, Sylvia Talbot, and Regatta Manager Richard Matterson .

The Beneteau Cup and French Yacht Challenge are on the 24th and 25th October 2015. Make sure you enter the dates in your diary now.

Jane Virtue – The Matrix
Queensland Beneteau Owners Coordinator