

Esse Eurocup 2007, Malcesine Lago di Garda 5th Event of the international Esse Cup 2007

With 17 competing Esse 850 from 5 different countries including a participating team from Australia, and the famous Fraglia Vela Malcesine with their brand new clubhouse and harbor facilities at the Lake Garda in Italy as the organizing club, this event became the absolute highlight of this year's international Esse 850 Cup.

Once again, the experienced, friendly and enthusiastic staff of the Fraglia demonstrated how to have a great event with only smiling faces on the shore and on the water. A huge thank you goes to that whole staff, and it deserves to be in the very beginning of this article and not just a footnote towards the end. The president, the office, the shore workers, the trailer and crane team, the cooks, the jury, the race committee and everyone I have forgotten: Cento mille Grazie!!!

After a training day that was used by almost all Esse to tune their boats to fit the typical Garda conditions of 15 - 25 knots of southerly wind in the afternoon (the famous "ora"), the racing started on Friday with three races in beautiful sunshine and with a great ora gradually increasing in force to reach 22 knots in the last race. The races were dominated by Charles Favre, an ex-olympic and still a world class sailor, and his team on SUI 066 and Arnaud Gavairon and his team including 11-year old Florian Schuchter on Josef Schuchter's SUI 064.

More towards the back of the fleet we saw many crews having their difficulties in the beginning of the day, but then the racing became tighter and tighter and every place had to be fought for really hard. There were no damages or breakdowns whatsoever which demonstrated once more how stable these high performance boats are.

On the second day we sailed a further three races to complete the 6 races that were planned in the notice of race. The conditions were even better because the wind was even stronger. The racing was now really very tight and the day was dominated by Oscar Paulich and his crew on SUI 057, who won two of the last three races demonstrating superb strong wind sailing skills.

At the "pasta-vino-and-pricegiving" ceremony the whole Esse family celebrated this fabulous Lago di Garda experience. The stories told were incredible as always, and the joy about the two days in paradise could be seen in every pair of sparkling eyes.

The medal winners of the event were separated by only two points, the event was won (please see complete results in the separate document) by Charles Favre, Jack Vautravers and Eric Meier on Chantier Naval Vidy SUI 066 (1,2,2,2,2), closely followed by Gavairon/Schuchter/Schuchter/Armand on SUI 064 (2,1,3,1,3) and Paulich/Spahr/Keppler on SUI 057 (5,3,1,1,1).

Congratulations go to all participants, I am sure all of them and many more will come to this event again next year!

I am looking forward to meeting you all again soon, the next Esse Cup event will be the Late Summer Cup in Estavayer on the lake of Neuchatel on 25 and 26 August.

Oscar Paulich
Regattas