

## 2007 Esse 850 Staefa Spring Regatta

Due to the splendid organization in the capable hands of the Segelclub Staefa with Urs Gruetter as the Race Officer, the second event of the Esse Cup 2007 became a huge success.

With two races in 5 to 8 knots of wind on Wednesday and two races with 10 to 14 knots on Thursday, the ten boats mainly from the lake of Zurich have enjoyed conditions that are not really so typical for that lake.

After the first evening of racing the event looked like a clear win for the crew of the SUI 057 helmed by Oscar Paulich, although Esse 850 newcomer Thomas Ilg, from the Walensee was close with two 2<sup>nd</sup> places and guest skipper Peter Kehrer, a well known sailor in Switzerland sailing Ueli Schwarzenbach's SUI 047, had a great premiere with two 3<sup>rd</sup> places as well. The majority of the boats had to get used to the racing circumstances as they had only trained but not really raced before in this young season.

The spontaneous social event in the famous Rössli Restaurant in Staefa showed that many sailors had been in Restaurants more than on boats in the winter. We enjoyed a friendly and fun get-together with participants and committee in a relaxed typical Esse manner.

The second evening started with a win for Thomas Ilg on SUI 044, putting a lot of pressure on Oscar because it was now all up to the last race. If Thomas would win that one, he would have won the event as well! The efforts of the first three races turned out to be too much for this new young team though, when their gennaker halyard was on the wrong side at the windward mark SUI 057 took the lead and won the race followed by SUI 047 Kehrer and a good 3<sup>rd</sup> for Ueli Naef from the Lake Constance on SUI 041.

A very nice event with good fights, good food and fair sailing lead by a good committee.