

Criterion Esse 850 Vidy 2007 4th Event of the international Esse Cup 2007

Since last year, when the Esse family first visited Vidy, this event is secretly called the Swiss Open Esse 850 Championships. This year, with 11 participating boats from 3 countries, the title "Open" was certainly deserved, and the quality of racing absolutely deserved the title Swiss Championships as well.

After most boats had arrived Friday evening, the Saturday skippers meeting could take place already at 10:00 in the morning with only one Zurich boat still dangling in the crane. After a short and efficient meeting the committee sent us on the water immediately, since there were 15 knots of beautiful SW blowing on the Lac Lemman. The late arrival Zurich boat made it to the start, but some other participants had been overdoing their trim tack and were much too late at the starting line. A lesson hopefully learned for life: when a good committee says they are going to start, they are going to do just that!



Of the skippers who knew this already, the local crew with skipper Michel Vaucher and secret favorite for the title on SUI 066 beat another favorite, crew Oscar Paulich on SUI 057 after Oscar made one or two unlucky (okay, the other

word is stupid) tactical decisions on the second beat. Alinghi, rest assured, even Oscar makes mistakes!

At the end of the Saturday, we had done 4 races in beautiful Caribbean-like conditions. Michel sailed top positions regularly, but also Alessandro Fuchs on Donato's SUI 016 from Ticino and Josef Schuchter, who sailed with his 11-year old son Florian and 17 year old Laser talent Pascal Fischer from Stäfa, had top positions in races 3 and 4.



On Sunday, the only thing that was still Caribbean-like was the grass and the weed under the rudders and keels. A lot of diving crews before the first race and whole footballfields of grass appeared from under the boats. The racing was more Swiss-lake-like with only some patches of let's call it wind. In the first race Michel overtook Oscar by rounding the leeward mark with the gennaker up and sailing half the beat with it. Yes you are reading this correctly. Rumor has it Oscar had to visit a psychiatrist Monday morning and still does not understand how this could happen.

In the second and last race Josef Schuchter was leading all the way but had to let Oscar pass on the last beat while grabbing second place himself. Michel came 4th and therewith Michel and Oscar were tied for points. Because no more

racing was possible, Michel won the event because he had one more first place than Oscar.

The apero and the simple but very good dinner in front of the clubhouse were a highlight as always when the Esse family meets for eat and drink.

A big "merci beaucoup" to the Cercle de Voile de Vidy Team who acted as Race Committee and who did a great job as always.

I am looking forward to meeting you all again soon, the next Esse Cup event will be the European Open in Malcesine Lago di Garda Italia on 27, 28 and 29 July.

Oscar Paulich
Regattas