

Protest Hearing Decision

Wednesday Twilight, 6th February 2019

Date of Protest Hearing 4th March 2018, GFS Clubhouse

Boats Protesting

French Connection Representative - Michael Murphy

Vitesse Representative - Alistair Cameron-Strange

Witnesses

French Connection Nick Murphy, Patricia Murphy, Katrina Wallace, Robert Cameron (by phone), Nigel Harris (by phone)

Vitesse Sue Bishop, Brett Hayward (Lisdillon), Glenda Cameron-Strange, Brian Carrick (statement only)

Facts Found

1. Breeze was approximately from the NE and at around 7 knots.
2. A collision occurred between French Connection and Vitesse opposite the GFS Clubhouse close to the western shore of Onions Point.
3. French Connection was on starboard tack on a northerly heading.
4. In response to another yacht (unnamed) that had hailed "water", Vitesse found herself becalmed, close to the shore and in irons off Onions Point facing the GFS clubhouse.
5. At approximately 19:15hrs, French Connection and Vitesse converged.
6. French Connection from 5-10 metres away, hailed "starboard" three times.
7. Vitesse, whilst on a port tack, in response to the starboard hails replied that they had no steerage and we are unable to keep clear.
8. The lower portion of the bow of Vitesse had contact with the upper portside gunwale of French Connection.
9. The point of contact reveals that French Connection's was heeled substantially to port in order to make contact with Vitesse's bow just above the waterline.
10. When contact occurred, Vitesse had no steerage and was unable to avoid a pending collision, although the sails may have filled just prior to the collision.

Conclusion

1. French Connection did not avoid contact as required by Rule 14.
2. It was not reasonably possible for Vitesse to avoid the contact once it became clear that French Connection was not going to avoid contact.

Rules that Apply RRS 14.

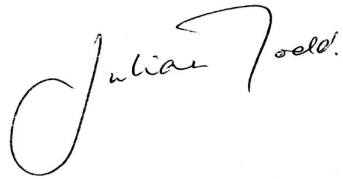
Decision

French Connection is to be scored DSQ in Race 1, GFS Autumn Twilight Series

Protest Committee

Alan Bull, Paul Stubbs, Bruce Hilliard and Julian Todd (Chairman)

Chairman's signature



Julian Todd.
