

On the Bay by Andrea Watson (for issue 8/29/2013)

Photo: Nicolai Sehested, TRE-FOR Match Racing, rounding the mark behind Will Tiller in the Finals at the 2012 Knickerbocker Cup. Tiller went on to win the event and Sehested, who is back to win this year, came in second.

The Knickerbocker Cup, and international match race that brings top-ranked match racers to Manhasset Bay begins on Thursday, Aug. 29 and continues each day Sunday, Sept.1. The community is welcomed, *and encouraged*, to be a part of this year's event. Spectator boats will be available throughout the regatta, and if interested please contact Bonnie Doran at: bonniedoran@danielgale.com.

In 1977, the late Ed du Moulin, from Sands Point, along with the late Arthur Knapp were out west in Long Beach, CA watching the very prestigious Congressional Cup, which at that time was the only match racing event in the US. The two friends thought it would be a terrific idea to bring match racing to the east coast and the Knickerbocker Cup was born. The idea was to get four or five of the best-known east coast skippers and add some up-and-coming stars in match racing from Europe.

Fast forward to today and the list of Knickerbocker Cup teams have made the "big time" on the world match racing scene is impressive. According to the International Sailing Foundation (ISAF), www.sailing.org, which ranks match racers over the year and assigns each team a ranking based on their performance, past KCUP competitors are ranked top in the world: (Name, Country, Ranking): Taylor Canfield (ISV), 2; Keith Swanton, AUS, 5; William Tiller, NZL, 6; Phil Robertson, NZL, 9; Nicolai Sehested, DEN, 12; Reuben Corbett, NZL, 16. And of the 10 teams in the Alpari World Match Racing Tour www.wmrt.com, more than 50% of them have raced right here on our bay at the Knickerbocker Cup.

Two teams that have made the Alpari World Match Racing Tour will be coming back to the KCUP this year to see how they fare against a strong group of competitors. They will, again, try to tame the variable winds and currents on the bay that are so well known to local racers. Last year,

Taylor Canfield, came in 7th overall and Nicolai Sehested, was second, just behind Will Tiller. This year's Knickerbocker Cup line-up: (Name, Team Name, Country, Ranking): Taylor Canfield, USone, ISV, 2; Nicolai Sehested, TRE-FOR Match Racing, DEN, 12; Eric Monin, Okalys-Corum, SUI; 14; David Gilmour, Team Gilmour, AUS, 24; Dustin Durant, Long Beach Match Racing, USA, 26; Mark Lees, Team Echo Sail Racing, GBR, 33; Chris Poole, Riptide Racing, USA, 40; Stratis Andreadis, Atalanti Racing/Black Goat Offshore, GRE, 43; Ashlen Rooklyn, Ballyhoo Racing, AUS, 46 and Stephanie Roble, USA, 86 (ranked 7th in the Women's ranking).

So come on out and see what match racing is all about – and enjoy a lovely day on Manhasset Bay!