

## Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron

### Protest Committee Decision

**Date of Hearing:** 20 March 2017

**Event:** Stewart 34's

**Race Number:** 3

**Date of incident:** 13 March 2017

**Boat Protesting:** Playbuoy                      **Sail Number:** 136  
**Boat Protested:** Psyche                      **Sail Number:** 4642

**Representatives:** Protestor: Guy Pilkington  
Protestee: Russell West

**Validity:** Evidence was given by the Protestor that they had advised the Race Committee of their intention to protest by radio after the finish, as required by the S34 Sailing Instructions, this was not contested by the Protestee. As all other requirements were met, the protest was found to be valid and the hearing continued.

#### Facts Found:

1. Psyche was to windward of the committee boat prior to the start, on starboard tack with sheets eased, moving very slowly.
2. Playbuoy, sailing significantly faster, established a leeward overlap from clear astern within a metre of Psyche's stern.
3. Upon the overlap being established, Psyche's helmsman put the helm down as far as possible in an effort to keep clear but no action was taken to sheet on the sails.
4. Playbuoy then sailed through to leeward of Psyche.
5. When the boats were still overlapped by approximately 4 metres, Psyche had lost steerage and her bow fell away to leeward colliding with the pushpit and the stern quarter of Playbuoy.

#### Conclusion and Rules that Apply:

1. Psyche as a windward boat failed to keep clear of Playbuoy and broke rule 11.
2. Playbuoy complied with its obligations under rule 15 to initially give room at the time the overlap was established.
3. By not sheeting on, Psyche was not manoeuvring promptly in a seamanlike manner as required for yacht to be entitled to room – see the definition of "room".

World Sailing case 7 is also relevant.

**Decision:** Pysche is DSQ in Race No 2.

**Protest Committee:** Russell Green (Chairman), Bevan Woolley, John Faire.

**Chairman's Signature:**

**Date and Time Decision Advised:** 20 March 2017 at approximately 19.15 hours