

OFFSHORE

YACHTING | AUSTRALIA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CRUISING
YACHT CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2004

RACING NORTH REPORTS

Gold Coast • Airlie Beach • Hamilton Island

ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART

Overseas boats on their way!

ETCHELLS WORLDS

Profile of winner

RALLY IN TWO PARADISES

Phuket to Langkawi



5.95 inc. GST



9 771446 117003



ONGOING QUEST

Grand prix ocean racer *Quest* just pipped *Pendragon*, a cruiser/racer, for top IRC honours in the Ingles Sydney Gold Coast Race. Lisa Ratcliff and Peter Campbell report

QUEST GETS TOP HONOURS IN THE INGLES SYDNEY GOLD COAST RACE
PHOTO: IAN MAINSBRIDGE

The now premier IRC handicap system and the vagaries of winter winds along the North Coast of New South Wales combined to see three boats of widely varying design and concept fill the first three places on corrected time in the Ingles Sydney Gold Coast Race in early August.

Bob Steel's grand prix Nelson/Marek 46, *Quest*, added yet another victory to her glorious record in winning IRC Division A and Overall first place from Andrew Cochrane's Stewart 34 cruiser/racer, *Pendragon*, by a mere 35 minutes. *Pendragon* had looked the likely winner of the slow race, but light northerly winds faded after nightfall and *Pendragon's* crew missed their deadline. They had to be content with a second overall and first in Division D.

Third place overall and first in Division B went to Ed Psaltis and Bob Thomas' recently acquired Farr 40 One Design, which maintains the name of their past two boats, *AFR Midnight Rambler*. She corrected out with a time 52 minutes higher than that of *Pendragon*, but grabbed third place overall by a mere six minutes on corrected time from Division C winner, Mick Hinchey and Dennis Hume's *Yeab Baby*, the top placed Sydney 38.

The 75-boat fleet, the biggest since 1999, set sail from Sydney on Saturday, 31 July. The line honours winner, the New Zealand super maxi *Konica Minolta (Zana)* did not cross the finish line until the following Monday evening, 2 August. *Konica Minolta's* elapsed time of 53 hours, 12 minutes, 51 seconds was the second slowest ever for the 384 nautical mile coastal passage race and was almost twice *Brindabella's* race record.

The race started in a drifter in which the leaders took 30 minutes to clear Sydney Heads and the slower boats took more than an hour. The light and flukey winds continued for the first 40 hours until a fresh nor'easter filled in on the Monday afternoon.

Extraordinary success

Surprisingly, only 13 boats pulled out of the race, but they included the super maxi *Skandia*, with owner/skipper Grant Wharington electing to retire early on the Monday morning to allow him to reach Mooloolaba in time to skipper his Etchells class yacht in the World Championships that began that afternoon off the Sunshine Coast. He and three other crew members of *Skandia* left the big boat and flew in a chartered plane

Cruising

Cruising Yacht Club of Australia



L Eat Catering



Flowers by Pollen



- Spectacular views across one of Sydney's finest marinas.
- L EAT - Sydney's leading Boutique Caterer exclusive to the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia.
 - Event stylist and complete co-ordination.
- Weddings, corporate events, black tie dinners, conferences etc.



Cruising Yacht Club of Australia
New Beach Road, Darling Point NSW 2027
Telephone 9327 4342 • functions@cyca.com.au
www.cyca.com.au

DRIFTER START
TO THE INGLES
SYDNEY GOLD
COAST RACE
PHOTO:
IAN MAINSBRIDGE



to Maroochydhore. They arrived just in time for the first race, but Wharington had a luckless regatta. (See Etechells World story this issue on page 42.)

At the time of her retirement, *Skandia* held a handy lead from the New Zealand boat she beat for line honours in the 2003 Rolex Sydney Hobart, *Zana*, now called *Konica Minolta*. This left Stewart Thwaites with a comfortable line honours win with the 98-footer, although he did not cross the finish line off Southport's Main Beach until 6.12pm on the Monday evening. George Snow's record-holder finished second across the line, about four and a half hours later, followed by Sean Langman's *AAPT* about three hours later.

CYCA Member Bob Steel has enjoyed extraordinary success with *Quest*, including being Overall winner of the 2002 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, the CYCA's 2002-2003 Blue Water Championship, the Australian IRC Offshore Championship and wins at Hamilton Island Race Week. Last-year, Steel was named CYCA Ocean Racing Yachtsman of the Year and long-time crew member David Ellis the Ocean Racing Crewman of the Year.

Nevertheless, it was a great performance by *Pendragon* whose crew included Olympic gold medallist Tom King, international Mumm 36 sailor Chris Cook and crewman Luke Ratcliff from the 2003 Rolex Sydney Hobart Overall winner, the Beneteau 40.7, *First National Real Estate*. *Pendragon* led for most of the race on progressively calculated corrected time, just missing out on her 10pm Tuesday deadline to beat *Quest* as the northerly breeze softened to 8 knots after sunset.

The PHS Division went to John Cameron with *More Witchcraft*, a Dibley 40 which had a comfortable victory from Geoff Hill's *Strewth* and the Farr 49, *Sting*, skippered by Russel Pieters.

The big fleet included 13 Sydney 38s racing as a One Design Division as well as under IRC handicaps. *Yeah Baby*, which placed third Overall and first in Division C under IRC, won the boat-for-boat contest with the other Sydney 38s by 59 minutes from Martin and Lisa Hill's *Estate Master* and Chris Way's *Easy Tiger*.

Rob Reynolds' *Tara*, which placed 34th overall, was abandoned off the NSW Central Coast on her return delivery to Sydney, the crew taking to a life raft. They were rescued by helicopter. ■

RESULTS: OVERALL IRC

1. *Quest*, Nelson/Marek 46 (Bob Steel, CYCA) corrected time 3 days 7 hrs 36 min 24 secs
2. *Pendragon*, Stewart 34 (Andrew Cochrane, CYCA) 3:08:11:09
3. *AFR Midnight Rambler*, Farr 40 OD (Ed Psaltis/Bob Thomas, CYCA) 3:09:03:26

IRC Division A

1. *Quest*, Nelson/Marek 46 (Bob Steel, CYCA) 3:07:36:24
2. *Ragamuffin*, Farr 50 (Syd Fischer, CYCA) 3:10:22:30
3. *Yendys*, Judel/Vroljik 52 (Geoff Ross, CYCA) 3:10:26:50

IRC Division B

1. *AFR Midnight Rambler*, Farr 40 OD (Ed Psaltis/Bob Thomas, CYCA) 3:09:03:26
2. *About Time*, Cookson 39 (Julian Farren-Price, CYCA) 3:09:22:52
3. *Mean Machine*, Mumm 36 (Chris Rabbidge, MHYC) 3:13:19:27

IRC Division C

1. *Yeah Baby*, Sydney 38 OD (Mick Hinchey/Dennis Hume, CYCA) 3:09:09:26
2. *Estate Master*, Sydney 38OD (Martin & Lisa Hill, RSYs) 3:10:15:14
3. *Easy Tiger*, Sydney 38 OD (Chris Way, RPAYC) 3:10:17:02

IRC Division D

1. *Pendragon*, Stewart 34 (Andrew Cochrane, CYCA) 3:08:11:09
2. *Game Set*, Bavaria 38 (Tony Kirby, CYCA) 3:11:04:12
3. *Mr Beaks Ribs*, Beneteau 40.7 (David Beak, CYCA) 3:11:37:55

PHS Division Overall

1. *More Witchcraft*, Dibley 40 (John Cameron, CYCA) 3:10:23:20
2. *Strewth*, MKL 49 (Geoff Hill, CYCA) 3:12:21:02
3. *Sting*, Farr 49 (Russel Pieters, CYCA) 3:16:19:30

Sydney 38 OD Division

1. *Yeah Baby* (Mick Hinchey/Dennis Hume, CYCA) elapsed time 3:00:58:59
2. *Estate Master* (Martin & Lisa Hill, RSYs) 3:01:58:10
3. *Easy Tiger* (Chris Way, RPAYC) 3:01:59:47

Line honours: *Konica Minolta*, Super Maxi (Stewart Thwaites, NZL)
2 days 5 hours 12 min 51 secs