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TEST RUN
BOAT REVIEWS OF THE LATEST FROM DUFOUR AND BENETEAU

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**Land Rover
Sydney Gold Coast
Yacht Race**

The 31st Land Rover Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race finished as one of the slowest on record, which meant celebrations started a little later than hoped. Nevertheless on Wednesday 3rd August at Southport Yacht Club (SYC) the prizes were presented to very worthy winners after a long and tough 384 nautical mile race. The prizes were presented by Land Rover Representative Michael Thorburn, SYC's first female Commodore Kerry Noyes and CYCA Director Leander Klohs.





than usual, attracted its share of funny stories, and 'what if's.

A favourite was that of Shane Kearns, owner of the defending champion, *Komatsu Azzurro*. And despite being stuck at sea for so long, arriving just in time for the prize giving, Kearns and his regular crew won Division 4, and won ORCi Division 3.

In a text message to a CYCA Race Official, shortly before finishing, Kearns said: "Please close the windows to the sailing office if you ever see me approaching to enter a yacht race again! Give me a gale in Bass Strait to sail into rather than this agonising torture".

Fortunately, yachties have very short memories.

In another text, Simon Kurts, steering *Love & War* towards the finish line before 9.30am this morning, after a previous ETA had them finishing at 3am: "Please accept our apologies, as we are running a little late".

Noel Cornish, a CYCA director and the owner skipper of *St Jude* commented: "It was an enjoyable but challenging race. It was exciting too, because it provided a lot of great competition between those in our Division (*St Jude* finished third in Division 2). Many of us were together within 50 metres of each other – we rarely lost sight of each other – we almost match raced to Southport."

"It was very tricky for the navigators, and Steve Kidson navigated *St Jude* for the first time. He did a great job," Cornish ended.

Ten boats retired from the 2016 Land Rover Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race. ⚓ www.goldcoast.cyca.com.au

In mostly light and variable conditions throughout the 384 nautical mile race, one of the slowest on record, *Wild Oats XI* took two days 1 minute 16 seconds

Oats' main competition for line honours, *Scallywag*, owned by Hong Kong businessman Seng Huang Lee, retired after a keel ram exploded on the super maxi as they were sailing near Smoky Cape. "Such a pity, we were right alongside *Wild Oats XI*," Skipper David Witt reported from the yacht, which was giving the race record holder a run for

entered the annual 384 nautical race, eight finished.

To give an idea as to depth of *Ichi Ban's* win, and her performance against the other top TP52s, she finished six hours in front of *Balance* (Paul Clitheroe), with *Koa* and *M3* closely following *Balance* over the finish line. With their respective handicaps in place, *Ichi Ban* beat *Koa* eight minutes short of six hours and *M3* by nearly seven hours.

Allen and his crew worked the tricky weather situation to their advantage, placing the boat in all the right places at all the right times, while the bulk of the fleet fell into every hole imaginable on the 384 nautical mile race course.

The 31st running of the 384 nautical mile race, more so

Slow Motion

The 2016 Land Rover Sydney Gold Coast race proved a test of patience and tactics, a highly challenging outing for navigators who tried to avoid the wind holes which littered the course.

to complete the course; well outside the open race record she set in 2012 of 22 hours 3mins 43secs.

The super maxi last contested the race in 2014, when she took line honours off Main Beach in the time of one day 2hrs 27mins and 47secs, nearly half the time it took her to finish this year.

"We had a lot of slow through the race, not just the end," *Wild Oats XI's* skipper Mark Richards said, referring to the 5-6 knot fluky breeze that brought them to the finish line. "It seemed to take forever," he said.

her money in the light airs.

Peter Harburg's Volvo 70 *Black Jack* was second across the line three hours astern of *Wild Oats XI*, with another three hours back to *Ichi Ban*.

Sunshine and light breezes sent the 75 entrants through Sydney Heads and northward to Queensland. *Wild Oats XI* led the fleet past North Head with the newly branded *Scallywag* chasing.

But it was the TP52's which dominated the race on handicap, with Matt Allen's *Ichi Ban* claiming a comprehensive overall victory. Nine TP52's

