



CRUISING YACHT CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

Home of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

NEWS RELEASE

7 December 2012

Kokomo and Old School get early jump in CYCA Trophy

Lang Walker's *Kokomo*, with London gold medallist Malcolm Page on tactics, has come out on top in the Farr 40 class, while defending champion, *Old School* (Mark Griffiths) got the early jump in the Sydney 38 class at the CYCA Trophy One-Design series which started on Sydney Harbour today.

Although the two fleets usually race offshore, the sailing instructions allowed for racing offshore or on Sydney Harbour, and after looking at the day's weather ahead of time, the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia's principal race officer, Denis Thompson, deduced the Harbour was the better option. At the end of the day, the sailors agreed.

According to 470 Men's six time world champion and Olympic gold medallist Malcolm Page, "It was very tricky and overcast. Everyone had their chance at being a hero and everyone had a chance at being the dunce," he said laughing.

"Although the racing was very close, there were lots of swings and roundabouts. *Transfusion* was last around the first mark, but won the race, and the same thing happened to us in the second race," said Page after *Kokomo*, which also had the likes of North Sails Richie Allanson and Damien King aboard, won Races 2 and 3 for a three point lead over *Transfusion*.

Belgiorno-Nettis, who had 49er London gold medallist, Iain 'Goobs' Jensen calling the shots, agreed with Page's picture of the day and admitted: "*Kokomo* was a tremendous threat; everywhere we wanted to go, they were there."

Jensen added of Race 2: "They (*Kokomo*) kept dumping on us and then they trapped us, boxed us in. We'd gone out to the right with a group and then the guys on the left sailed right over the top of us."

Belgiorno-Nettis, the 2010 Farr 40 world champion and third placegetter in 2012 added, "It was a lottery. At one stage we snatched defeat from the jaws of victory! It was a lottery.

"We sailed three different courses for the three races. We sailed the whole Harbour. Denis Thompson did a great job in difficult circumstances," said the skipper who had Olympian Bob Wilmot and Julian Plante bolstering his crew – and his son, Massimo, sailing with him for the first time.

"I usually sail skiffs," 24 year-old Massimo said. "I found everything happened in slow motion on the Farr 40. I got stuck in the pit, so I didn't see much – you just do one job on a boat like this, so you don't get your head up, so you don't see what's going on," he said.

Martin and Lisa Hill's *Estate Master* is in third place, three points behind *Transfusion*, with six races still to come.

In the Sydney 38 class, defending champion Mark Griffith (*Old School*) and his almost usual crew, including Steve McConaghy, got off to a great start with a near three minute win over fellow Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club member, Bruce Ferguson and crew aboard *Whisper* in Race 1.

Griffith took the bullet again in Race 2, with CYCA sailors, Geoff Bonus and Richard Williams (*Calibre*) taking the gun in Race 3. *Old School* goes into Race 4 tomorrow with a threatening six point lead over *Whisper*, with last year's runner-up, *Zen* (Gordon Ketelbey), in third place, one point behind *Whisper*.

Steve McConaghy described the day: "Three different races, three different breezes, three different race courses – a very challenging day."

In Race 1, McConaghy said, "We got out of the gate fast and got on the right side of the shifts and cleared out. We had to fight to the death in the other two races though. *Calibre* sailed really well in the third race – they'll be hard to beat.

"We're pretty happy, because we brought in two fill-in trimmers today and they did a great job to help us to two wins.

McConaghy added: "There was definitely more breeze in the Harbour, so the race committee made the right call. Apparently there's going to be good breeze tomorrow, so we'll probably head offshore."

Racing continues tomorrow. Denis Thompson plans to hold at least three races, and perhaps four if the winds proving tempting enough.

For daily results log on to <http://www.cyca.com.au/racing/cyca-trophy-series/results/>

By Di Pearson, CYCA Media

*** ENDS***

Photo Captions & Credit: Please credit www.sailpix.com.au

Last year's winner and 2011 world champion Transfusion

Intense concentration aboard 2011 winner Old School

Zen crew use weight evenly in light air

For further information please contact:

Di Pearson

CYCA Media

Mobile: 0410 792 131

Or Jennifer Crooks

Communications Officer

Cruising Yacht Club of Australia

Ph: 02 8292 7800

Mobile: 0458 211 678

Email: jennifer.crooks@cyca.com.au