

## **International 14 Team Racing World Championships, Sydney, December 2009**

### **Race reports**

#### **Day 1**

Teams racing is under way at the CST Composites International 14 World Championship on Sydney Harbour. Day One was staged in near perfect conditions today in North Harbour adjacent to the host venue of the Manly 16ft Skiff Sailing Club.

The teams racing is being held over a compact windward leeward course, with back to back races.

Australia, Germany and Great Britain all put in strong performances throughout the day held in a 12-18kt sou'easter.

Australia B team skipper Ben Austin and crew Peter Nicholson were strong performers in their Beebe hull Dimension Polyant. Ben has a background in sailmaking and built a new set of sails for himself and made numerous modifications to a boat that is showing good speed.

"We were working until 2am this morning and got going again at 8am," Austin said. "But, yeah, the boat is going ok."

Of the German boats Axel Reinsch of Goldfinger was another good performer who said the breezes today were perfect and "ideal for us". Reinsch and his crew Felix Weidling certainly reveled in the conditions and were looking forward to Day Two of Teams Racing.

Other standouts for the day were defending champion Archie Massey and Dan Wisldon in George 1st (GBR), Lindsay Irwin and Andrew Perry in Ronstan, Irwin Sails (Aus) and Ron Scherwinski and James Lanati in Ray White Flaunt It (Aus).

Day Two of the Team Racing is to be held on 30 December with good conditions expected.

#### **Day 2**

Australia today won the International 14 class Teams Racing event at Manly on Sydney Harbour. The Australian no.1 team won the two-day event from runners-up Great Britain.

The Teams Racing was held in near perfect conditions ranging from 8 to 18 knots of sou'east and flat water in the protected waters of North Harbour.

The teams consisted of five boats with four racing at any given time and one in reserve. The format involved back-to-back short windward leeward races.

Team AUS 1 was Del Boca Vista (Devine/Jones), George 1st (Massey/Wilsdon), Too Late too Stop Now (Krstic/Wilson), Ronstan Irwin Sails (Irwin/Perry), Ray and the Crazy 88s (Anderson/Coutts).

The GBR team consisted Greenheart (Pattison/Tait), GBR 1484 (Heywood/Clay), GBR 1520 Roborowski (Nurton/Ash).

Current Australian Champion Brad Devine showed plenty of poise in the first final to clear out of the pack and win in his new boat which is beginning to show a good turn of speed.

Mind you, it did not hurt the Australian no.1 team by having current World Champion Archie Massey on their side. Massey and his crew of Dan Wilsdon are clearly going fast and have boatspeed to burn at the moment.

Massey said because he is now a resident in Australia and because he was “voted onto the Team at the Perth AGM at the last nationals”, he competed in the Teams Racing under the Australian flag.

He does however intend to sail the Worlds under the GBR banner but still contest the Nationals.

“I did not mind joining the Australians as the Brits have won the Teams event for the past five years,” Massey said today.

“We (Australia) had the faster team but they are better team races.”

In the end it was a combination of Massey’s speed and team tactics that laid a solid foundation for the Australian victory in what is the traditional curtain raiser for the World Championship which begins with the Invitation Race on 2 January.

Third place in Teams Racing went to Germany whose team included Just in Time (Borkenstein/Dietric), Killn’floor (Rooks/Holscher), ERT (Schultze/Ladwig), Goldfinger (Reinsch/Weidling), Unbekannter No.2 (Schuerch/Thiessen).

### **Overall Results:**

Semi 1: GBR d AUS 2, 2 races to nil

Semi 2: Aus 1 d GER 2-nil

Final: AUS 1 d GBR 2-nil