

Scarlet Runner wins IRC handicap as well as line honours

The new Reichel/Pugh 52 Scarlet Runner, owned and skippered by Robert Date from Sandringham Yacht Club, Melbourne, won the 60th Lexus Adelaide-Port Lincoln race on IRC handicap corrected time as well as taking line honours for the 156n mile South Australian offshore classic.

Scarlet Runner beat the hot Adelaide Reichel/Pugh 52 Secret Men's Business 3.5 by the big margin 50 minutes on corrected time, after Secret Men's became becalmed nearing the finish in Boston Bay.

Third, another 31 minutes behind was Port Lincoln sailor Kym Clarke's Sydney 47 Fresh, the former Sydney-owned Balance.

After a very slow night in light winds off Yorke Peninsula, Balance reached Boston Bay as the first gusts of a strong nor'-wester swept through yesterday morning.

The nor'-wester, which reached 35-40 knots at times, gave the rest of the fleet a slow, hard beat to windward over the last 40n miles in Spencer Gulf, effectively ended the handicap-winning chances of the smaller boats. It gave the big spread of 21 hours between the first and last to finish in the total fleet of 65 boats.

Scarlet Runner's owner Rob Date, after receiving the line and handicap-honours trophies at the Port Lincoln YC awards ceremony, said: "Our crew worked incredibly hard during the night. I think we used every sail on the boat at some stage except the storm gear and everybody basically on the rail for the whole night and there were some very tired people when we got here yesterday."

He praised the Code Zero reaching headsails Dave Eichmeyer, who was aboard for the race, in winning the tussle against Secret Men's. Also in Scarlet Runner's crew of 13 was Adelaide Olympian Chris Tillett, who contributed local knowledge.

"We were so excited to win line honours and then to get IRC is so much better," said Date. "IRC is what the real racing is all about, so all the boats across the board can compete."

Date said he and his crew were still working on making the year-old Scarlet Runner go faster. "We've taken a bit of weight out of her, we've changed the jib cars and so hopefully we will be a bit quicker through the tacks this time.

"Super Men's got into us at Audi Victoria Race Week at Geelong and hopefully we are just going to gain that extra couple of seconds around the course to take them to the cleaners this week; that's the plan."

Scarlet Runner and Secret Men's Business 3.5 are IRC favourites in the four-day Lexus Lincoln Week regatta beginning tomorrow.

Winner of the PHS (performance handicap) division was Peter Young's self-designed 39-footer Hanson Monkey Puzzle from the Port Fairy YC.

Kim Woolford's Catalina 34 Caitlyn, from the Port Lincoln YC, won the cruising division and Mark Johns' Pescott/ Whitehaven 10.95m, from the Cruising YC of South Australia, the multihull division.

## Adelaide-Lincoln corrected time placings

IRC: 1, Scarlet Runner (Robert Date, Sandringham YC), Reichel/Pugh 52, 01 days, 00hr, 45mn min, 23sec; 2, Secret Men's Business (Geoff Boettcher, Cruising YC of SA), Reichel/Pugh 51, 01:01:35:18; 3, Fresh (Kym Clarke, Port Lincoln YC), Sydney 47, 01:02:06:51.

PHS overall: 1, Hanson Monkey Puzzle (Peter Young, Port Fairy YC), Young 39, 22hr 09min 16 sec; 2, Kaesler (Colin Fraser, Royal SA Yacht Squadron), Sydney CR 39, 22:38:47; 3, Shining Sea (Andrew Corletto, CYCSA), Sydney 38, 22:44:11.

PHS division 1: 1, Hanson Monkey Puzzle; 2, Kaesler; 3, Shining Sea.

PHS division 2: 1, Daystar (Ron Parker, RSAYC), Duncanson 35, 22:45:56; 2, War & Peace (Stefan Marcel, CYCSA), Beneteau 305, 22:49:03; 3, Carioca (Craig Hutton, CYCSA), Beneteau 33.7, 23:22:54.

Cruising: 1, Caitlyn (Kim Woolford, PLYC), Catalina 34, 01:04:42:36; 2, Rhythm II (David Lewis, PLYC), Spencer 40, 01:04:51:40; 3, Shilo (Wayne Smith, PLYC), Catalina 320, 01:20:13:09.

Multihull: 1, Aquila (Mark Johns, CYCA), Pescott Whitehaven 10.95m, 22:58:33; 2, Tearaway (Geoff Kneebone, RSAYS), Farrier 9.5m, 23:15:08; 3, Hasta La Vista (Gerald Valk, RSAYS), Crowther Hemlock 11m, 01:01:02:10.