

Lincoln Regatta Day Three

At the business end

Secret Men's Business 3.5 consolidated her points lead in the IRC handicap division of the Lexus Lincoln Week regatta with a third win in race four over Megga's Barbecue 10n mile bay course at Port Lincoln after another close tussle with Scarlet Runner at the head of the fleet today.

Scarlet Runner, a new Reichel/Pugh 52 owned and skippered by Robert Date, from Sandringham Yacht Club, Melbourne, was again first to finish by just 20 seconds from Geoff Boettcher's Secret Men's 3.5, an RP 51 from the Cruising Yacht Club of South Australia.

Secret Men's, with a slightly lower handicap rating, won by 52 seconds on corrected time.

Third on corrected, only another 10 seconds behind, was the Sydney 47 Fresh, owned by Kim Clarke of Port Lincoln YC with a crew largely drawn from the former Port Lincoln Sydney 32 fleet, with Dave Buckland helming.

Fourth was the 2009 Rolex Sydney-Hobart overall IRC handicap race winner Two True, a new Beneteau First 40 owned and skippered by Andrew Saies from the CYCSA.

With two short windward-return races left to sail tomorrow, Secret Men's Business 3.5 leads the scoreboard with six points from Scarlet Runner 15.

Third is the RP 47 Shamrock (Tony Donnellan) from the Mornington Yacht Club, which placed sixth in today's race, on 16 points. Fresh is fourth on 17 points and Two True fifth, on 17.5.

The course took the fleet over a windward-return leg in Boston Bay before proceeding to finish off Spalding Cove, where the yachts anchored and crews went ashore for the traditional barbecue lunch named after its founder, the legendary yacht delivery skipper and Port Lincoln YC stalwart supporter Geoff ("Megga") Bascombe, who died last year while delivering a yacht from Queensland to South-East Asia.

The race started in a 10-12 knot sou'-easter that freshened to 13-15 knots for the final short beat into Spalding Cove.

Secret Men's made a clever, delayed start at the committee boat end to get away quickly in clear air while Scarlet Runner had to sort clear of a group of boats at the pin.

Secret Men's led around the South Entrance Beacon windward mark in Boston Bay. Scarlet Runner, which is quicker offwind under her bigger spinnakers, gained the lead two-thirds of the way down the run to the Sub buoy.

Scarlet Runner led for the rest of the race but had to defend her lead with covering tacks against a fast-finishing Secret Men's on the last short windward beat from the Bickers Islands mark to the finish in Spalding Cove.

Fresh leads the performance handicap division scoreboard with 17 points from Scarlet Runner 18 and Secret Men's 19.

Leading the trailables/Etchells division is White Knight(Dave Knights, CYCA), an Austral Clubman 8.5, with 7.5 points from Aussie Blue (Philip Kelly, Port Lincoln YC), Noelex 25, 8 points and Alternative Therapy (Michael Lane, CYCSA), Austral Clubman 8, 20.

Cruising division leader is Old Nick (Craig Thomas, CYCSA), a Nicholson 45, 9 points; from Red Jam (Gary Sinton, CYCSA), Young 88, 10 and Peer Gynt (Douglas Gladman, Port Adelaide SC), Van Der Stadt 34, 11.