

60th Lexus Adelaide-Port Lincoln Race

The 2009 Rolex Sydney-Hobart race winner Two True, with perfect judgement and good speed won the start of the 60th Lexus Adelaide-Port Lincoln race off Outer Harbour this afternoon.

Two True, a Beneteau First 40 owned by Andrew Saies of the Cruising Yacht Club of South Australia, positioned herself well in the big PHS/IRC monohull fleet of 50 boats in a light but building south to south-west sea breeze

She was about 200m down from the boat end in the last minute so at gunfire, she was able to immediately tack off in clear air onto port, clear of right-of-way starboard tack boats onto the gaining leg across the Gulf of St Vincent towards the first rounding mark of the course, Marion Reef.

Secret Men's Business 3.5 (Geoff Boettcher), a Reichel/Pugh 51, from a more conservative start nearer the committee boat, was also able to tack off onto port early and soon power to lead the race from the Melbourne R/P 52 Scarlet Runner (Rob Date).

The whole fleet soon was on port tack, under-laying Marion Reef 40 miles away by only 10-15 degrees. Scarlet Runner about ten minutes after the start elected to go lower and set a Code Zero reaching headsail, with the expectations that the breeze would move to the southeast during the afternoon.

The fleet was expected to slow as the fleet reached to Cape Spencer as the south-easter lightened overnight. The wind is predicted to shift to the north-northeast during tomorrow, giving the smaller and slower boats a hard windward beat over the last 30 or 40 miles into Port Lincoln.

Geoff Boettcher said before the start that the record of 14hr 21min 37sec for the 156n mile course was most unlikely to be beaten.

His navigator Steve Kemp, after studying the weather forecasts and models, reckoned on a finishing time of about 1115, well behind Secret Men's finishing time of 0522 last year.

Secret Men's besides breaking the ten-year-old record last year also won the IRC division on corrected time. Since then, her hull has been radically altered and lengthened from 47ft to 51ft overall, for some excellent results.

Most recently she won the grand prix IRC handicap division at Audi Victoria Race Week. Encouraged, Boettcher, from the Cruising YC of South Australia, intends to take SMB3.5 to Sydney for the Middle Harbour YC' Audi regatta in March.