



Media Release February 26 2010

2010 Etchells New South Wales Championship

Sun Tzu leading after day one of the 2010 Etchells New South Wales Championship

Sydney (AUS) - Day one of racing for the 47 Etchells racing in the Etchells New South Wales Championship on Manly Circle today was a frustrating one to say the least. Roger Hickman's *Sun Tzu* sailed consistently in the top five to finish the first day of racing on top of the podium.

"Well it doesn't happen very often and if you could you would even them all out, you've got to take the luck when you can. We had a good tussle in race one with *Roulette* on the last leg to the finish and in the second race we had a good start at the boat end of the line", Hickman continued, "I like the freedom of racing in the ocean, I'd rather be offshore than dodging ferries on the harbour, I can get into a rhythm offshore but I know tomorrow will tell more".

PRO Rob Ridley from host club Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron had the fleet under an AP for an hour and half while the race committee waited for the fickle breeze to settle.

Start gun number one of the series was fired in a seven knot Nor West breeze and the first race of the day was underway. Graeme Taylor's *Magpie* led to the top mark and with the breeze becoming unstable and dropping in strength to four knots the race committee shortened the course at the gate reducing the race to a two leg race.

Victorian Taylor's *Magpie* took the first gun of the series after what can only be called a challenging race. Mark Johnson's *Roulette* finished race one in second and Hickman's *Sun Tzu* rounded out the podium places.

The breeze swung to the forecasted North East direction and race two was started with eight knots of wind. Four boats were called OCS and two of the four returned to restart the race. The swell provided a very different race course and racing conditions to the usual harbour racing for the Etchells and this is the reason many of the boats are here this weekend.

Current Etchells World Champion Jason Muir, who for the first time is racing with class rival Damien King on *Barry* commented after racing "It was really hard out there today in light tricky conditions but it is a great opportunity for us and the main reason we are here. Most of my Sydney sailing has been in the harbour and we are here to get time on the 2012 worlds race course. Today was our first day sailing as a crew in new positions on the boat so it has been a good learning curve for us all".

Damien King, skipper of *Barry*, who is currently in third overall remarked, "We messed up the finish in race one and managed to recover and finish eighth and improved on that result in race two".

After winning race two *Iron Lotus* skipper Tom King said, "It was a very long day out there, in race two we got out to the right into clear air and held our position".

Racing continues tomorrow on the Manly Circle with teams from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia all taking advantage of the offshore course in preparation for the 2012 Etchells World Championship which will be raced on the same race course.

Supporting the 2010 Etchells NSW Championship are Zhik, Tacktracker, Positive Image Innovation, John Boston Premium Beverages and North Sails.

Provisional Results Day 1:

Place	Sail No	Boat Name	Skipper	From	Sers Score
1	1088	SUN TZU	Roger Hickman	RSYS	7.0
2	876	FIFTEEN	David Clark	CYCA	10.0
3	924	BARRY	Damien King	SYC	11.0
4	832	ABSOLUTE PEARLER	Peter McNeill	BCC	15.0
5	1273	NORTH SYDNEY STATION	Robert Weir	CYC	16.0
6	1343	VINCERO	Nick Kingsmill	CYCA	18.0
7	1385	CONCUBINE	Jason Ward	RSAYS	21.0
8	1374	STEAMPACKET 7	Tom Slingsby	RPAYC	22.0
9	1377	ROULETTE	Mark Johnson	RSYS	22.0
10	1254	ODYSSEY	Peter Merrington	RPAYC	24.0
11	1346	AVALON	Michael Bellingham	RSYS	27.0
12	1084	WHY BE FLAT	Kane Sinclair	LMYC	27.0
13	1102	PANTHER	Stephen O'Rourke	CSC	27.0
14	1337	FATHOM	Rupert Henry	RSYS	28.0
15	925	IRON LOTUS	Tom King	RSYS	30.0
16	1250	BUSHFIRE	Jervis Tilly	RSYS	32.0
17	1253	MIRAMAR	Mark Doyle	RPAYC	33.0
18	940	NORTH STAR	Julian Plante	RPAYC	34.0
19	1290	GANESH	Glenn Nattras	RSYS	40.0
20	1223	TANGO	Chris Hampton	RBYC	44.0
21	1256	THE BIZ	John Hopkins	RSYS	44.0
22	868	YANDOO XX	Jeanne-Claude Strong	RSYS	44.0
23	870	TBA	Mark Bradford	RQYS	45.0
24	1165	WOBPEGONG	Douglas Flynn	CYCA	46.0
25	947	MAGPIE	Graeme Taylor	MYC	50.0
26	1345	HUMPBACK	Peter Gardner	CYCA	51.0
27	1286	HOOLIGANS	Michael Delaney	RSYS	56.0
28	1245	3 GONE MISSING	Todd Trevillion	RSYS	56.0
29	1134	DOT	David Seaton	RSYS	58.0
30	1219	CARABELLA IV	Matthew McCann	RSYS	61.0
31	1386	JAZASA	Jan Muysken	RSYS	62.0
32	1082	ALCHEMIST	Richard Hammond	RSYS	63.0
33	1125	TONIC	Peter Alexander	RSYS	65.0
34	1161	WILDLIFE	Bruce Davis	MYC	67.0
35	690	HAT TRICK	David Henry	CYCA	73.0
36	1124	ROUE	Michael Morris	RSYS	73.0
37	1186	TOUCH PAUSE ENGAGE	Michael Stovin-Bradford	RSYS	75.0
38	1058	FENG SHUI	Troy Tindill	NZYC	76.0
39	1360	MAGIC CARPET	Marcus Wait	CYCA	79.0
40	1272	FOOLHARDY	D Hardy B Northcote	RSYS	80.0
41	1370	SEAWINGS	Hendrik Visser	RPAYC	83.0
42	511	GRAND V	Gordon Hinds	RSYS	89.0
43	1128	SURPRISE	Adrian Fisk	RSYS	90.0
44	767	CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE	Mike Thackray	RSYS	98.0
44	1270	LA VIE DANSANTE	Chris Pratt	RSYS, RSAYS	98.0
44	1163	SPECIAL MENTION	David Griffith	RSYS	98.0
44	1358	ARE WE THERE YET ?	Mark Richards	RPAYC	98.0
44	1135	QRS	Alastair Stone	RSYS	98.0

For complete results go to <http://www.rsys.com.au/sailing/EtchellsNSW.php>

Media Contact: Sam Crichton ph +61 407 63 64 16 or email samcrichton@smartchat.net.au