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## 67TH Rolex Sydney To Hobart

Amanda Lulham The Daily Telegraph January 02, 2012 12:00AM

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Winner: Investec Loyal won line honours for the 67th Sydney to Hobart. Picture: Mark Evans Source: The Daily Telegraph

**THE 67th Sydney to Hobart is over, Amanda Lulham reviews all the action and drama from the big race.**

**The Drama:** The race committee lodged a protest against Loyal for receiving outside assistance after a crewman asked an ABC helicopter crew about sails on Wild Oats. A five-man international jury dismissed the protest the next day and named the yacht the official line honours winner.

**The Victor:** Businessman Anthony Bell and his team of 23 on the 100-footer Investec Loyal sailed over the finish line of the 628 nautical mile race accompanied by hundreds of boat after two days six hours and 14 seconds at sea. Her three minute eight second winning margin was the fourth closest in history.

**The bridesmaid:** The Mark Richards skippered Wild Oats X1 is not used to playing bridesmaid having done it only once in her previous six assaults on the race. But the 100-footer was unable to overtake Loyal in the final run to the finish and finish second.

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**Celebrity status:** They were racing south to raise money for the Loyal foundation but Today host Karl Stefanovic, Paralympian Kurt Fearnley and Roosters star Anthony Minichiello all had the ride of their life on the line honours winner.

**The curse:** Seasickness. It was rife in the fleet thanks to hours of nasty upwind conditions just hours after the start of the race at 1pm on Boxing Day. Just about every yacht in the fleet was affected at some stage of the race.

**Girl Power:** Wild Oats navigator Adrienne Cahalan became the first woman to compete in 20 Sydney to Hobart yacht races this year. The second most capped sailor was Gail Harland aboard Patrice X1 who

**Teen Queen:** Former round the world solo sailor Jessica Watson skippered the youngest ever crew to complete the race with her team boasting an average age of just 19.5 and racing to Hobart on a 38-footers.

**Speedbumps:** Both Investec Loyal and Wild Oats hit a sunfish as they raced to Hobart and were forced to stop and then back-up to free the fish from their keels. Loki also collected a creature from the deep which skipper Stephen Ainsworth believes was a shark.

**The oldest:** Stalwart and multiple America's Cup campaigner Syd Fischer completed his 43rd Sydney to Hobart at the age of 84. He was the oldest sailor in the race.

**The Youngest:** Chris Percy from the Gold Coast was the youngest skipper but didn't make it to Hobart, with damage forcing him out of the race on the NSW far south coast in his maiden Sydney to Hobart.

**The Slowest:** The Peter Langman skippered Maluka made it to Hobart before New Years Eve. The 79-year-old little 30 footer was the last yacht to cross the finish line after five days, three hours 48 minutes and 22 seconds at an average speed of just 5.1 knots. Investec Loyal covered the 628nm in two days, six hours, 14 minutes and 18 seconds at an average speed of just over 11 knots.

**The Wounded:** Accenture Yeah Baby (gear failure), Alacrity (rig damage), Alchemy III (rig damage), Celestial (broken gooseneck), ColorTile (rig damage), Duende (engine problems), Ffreelfire 52 (mainsail track damage), Illusion (hull damage), Pretty Fly III (no reason given), Wild Thing (sail damage).

### LINE HONOURS

Investec Loyal (Anthony Bell) 2:06:14:18.  
Wild Oats XI (Mark Richards) 2:06:17:26.  
Lahana (Peter Millard) 2:12:34:26

### OVERALL HONOURS

Loki (Stephen Ainsworth)  
Living Doll (Michael Hiatt)  
Ragamuffin (Syd Fischer)



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